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Newsletter 18

"The glory of creation is in its infinite diversity and the way our differences combine to create meaning and beauty."

Honorary Members: Gene Roddenberry, Richard Arnold, James Doohan, Walter Koenig, John de Lancie & Marnie Mosiman, Mark Lenard, Michael Okuda, Susan Sackett, Marina Sirtis, Patrick Stewart, Rick Sternbach, George Takei, Guy Vardaman, Rupert Evans, Lorraine Kelly, Anne Page, Rick Parfitt.



Susan with Tovar and Tasha

16/9/91

Greetings and congratulations to us *all* on STAR TREK's 25th anniversary. Yes, all of us are to be celebrants in this great event -- both you, the fans, and those of us who are fortunate enough to work with STAR TREK as professionals. You see, nearly every one who works on the show is a fan of it too, so we are doubly lucky! May STAR TREK and all of us

Live Long and Prosper!

--Susan Sackett

STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION

September 16, 1991

To all of the IDIC readers,

It's hard to believe that our 25th year has arrived, and what a year it promises to be. Here in the States and Canada we saw a 44-city marathon of the five STAR TREK films on September 7th, with more than 55,000 fans attending. During the screenings of the films, the new trailer for STAR TREK VI: THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY was shown, and the Los Angeles audience's wild response was appreciated by both Producer Ralph Winter and Executive Producer Leonard Nimoy, who had snuck into the back of the theatre!

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION's fifth season once again looks to be spectacular, and not only because of the two-parter guest-starring Leonard Nimoy. Wil Wheaton will also return as Wesley Crusher in at least one episode this season, already filmed, and possibly another, and Denise Crosby may be popping up again as the mysterious Romulan. And we can always look forward to a good Mrs. Troi story and a good Q story each season as well.

Guy Vardaman would add something to this, but he is so busy on the show that I'm beginning to forget what he looks like! At the moment he is on the set in full Klingon make-up (his call time this morning was 4:18AM!), and all last week he stood in for Leonard, and the week before he stood in for Wil.

STAR TREK VI's opening in the UK has apparently been moved-up to February 7th, and I'm sure that Janet will keep an ear open for any additional changes. Speaking of which, I'll have to end this so that Janet can take it with her, as her flight leaves in a matter of hours (and our guards will have to strip-search her before she leaves the lot!).

A happy 25th anniversary to all, and I hope to see you all soon at my next UK convention!

Best,



Richard Arnold - Star Trek Research Consultant - 5555 Melrose Ave. - Los Angeles, CA 90038 - 213-956-5871

Hi, everyone, and welcome to another newsletter. Our thanks to Susan and Richard for their 25th anniversary greetings. Although the official anniversary date was September 8th, celebrations will be continuing throughout the next year.

We are enclosing an IDIC Anniversary Special which we hope you will enjoy. We realise this isn't comprehensive and welcome any other articles reflecting ST's Anniversary - whether about characters or the series itself - which we can print in the next few newsletters. Let's keep the celebration going until September 1992.

We would like to welcome our new honorary members to IDIC: James Doohan, Michael Okuda, Rick Sternbach, Marnie Mosiman, Rick Parfitt & Anne Page. Jimmy Doohan will need no introduction to most of you; not only do we know him well as Scotty, but he has been a popular guest at British ST Conventions and we hope it isn't too long until he comes over again. Mike Okuda is the Scenic Art Supervisor and Rick Sternbach the Senior Illustrator on ST:TNG. Janet was fortunate to meet them both in the Art Department recently - they were very friendly and the Art Department is a fascinating place. Mike and Rick have written the soon to be released ST:TNG Technical Manual. Unlike other Technical Manuals this is 'Official' and the facts are correct at the time of writing. Of course what Michael and Rick couldn't foresee are any design alterations that come about because of the dictates of future episodes.

Silvercon attendees will know Marnie Mosiman, a very nice person and a lovely singer. Rick Parfitt of Status Quo is a keen Star Trek fan and we are pleased to have him join us. Anne Page is well known to most Convention goers. She has been MCing conventions since the 70s - we've lost count of the number she has done.

Janet - I had a great holiday in Los Angeles at the beginning of September and would like to say 'hi' to Gene, Ernie Over, Richard Arnold, Guy Vardaman, Mike Okuda, Rick Sternbach, Eric Stillwell, Cory Allen, Jan and everyone else I met. I'd like to say a special thank you to Susan Sackett for giving me such a great time. We managed to fit in Universal Studios (the ST Adventure is great fun), Disneyland, the Vasquez rocks (see Arena, Friday's Child etc.), the Hollywood Bowl to hear John Williams and the Philharmonic Orchestra, the County Fair (Carnival + Agricultural Show + Race Course + Horse Show + Ideal Home Exhibition etc.), not to mention Paramount. I also went along to dog training classes with Susan to watch her work her 5 year old German Shepherd Tovar and 11 month old Golden Retriever Tasha - I hope they picked up some ribbons, Susan. Tasha was kind enough to keep me company at night as I was missing my dog Shona. I now miss Tasha and Tovar of course, not to mention Susan, so I hope it won't be too long until I can get back over to LA to see everyone again.

To celebrate Star Trek's 25th Anniversary on September 8th a group of us which included Susan, Richard Arnold and his mother, Denny, Ernie Over, Fred Bronson, Rod Summers and 7 BSFR members (who were also visiting), went for a meal at the Spagetti Factory and we all shouted 'Happy Anniversary' over the phone to Gene.

Our thanks to all of you who have sent in submissions. We do have quite a bit held over for the next newsletter, which may be as well as the closing date for it will be about 4 weeks after this one comes out. We did allow the Postbag to stretch a bit this time as it is 3 months since the last newsletter, but this does mean we've no letters on hold for the next newsletter, so get writing. We would like to have a good stock of items to carry us over the February newsletter as things do tend to quieten off when you are all busy with the festivities at the end of the year.

Can the member who wrote 'Star Trekkin' (and proud of it) please contact Janet as you didn't put your name on the manuscript. We didn't want to print it without a name but if you let us know your name we'll put it in the December newsletter. It is important that members put their name on every submission as they do get separated from covering letters. Sheila was sent some excellent art some time ago which she hasn't been able to acknowledge because the covering letter got lost, so again, if you sent in some artwork and haven't had any acknowledgement, please contact her.

Our apologies to Kathleen Glancy and anyone who tried to phone her at her office number. Janet put an extra digit in the number.

Unfortunately, as we mentioned in the last newsletter, we have had to put up dues. This is to cover the increased postal rates and other price rises. The new U.K. rate is £6.50 per year which will allow us to put all the newsletters out at 88 pages assuming you send us enough material. Foreign rates reflect the difference in postage, which has unfortunately jumped quite a bit, especially to Australia & Japan where it now costs £1.48 to post the newsletter, while the U.S.A. is £1.27. We've been able to hold dues for Europe as postage rates to there have actually dropped. The new rates are: UK £6.50, USA/Middle East \$23.00 (£12.25), Australia/Japan £13.50, Europe £8.50. The U.S. dues in dollars may vary from time to time depending on exchange rates.

We're still looking for people with BBC, Amstrad WPC, IBM or PC compatible computers who could help us by typing up zine stories. We do have one or two helpers doing this but we would like more. We return your discs, and typists get a free copy of the zine they've helped to type.

Some of our writers have computers but others do not and typing up their stories does take time, and slows up zine production if we have to do most of it. If you'd like to help, send a short passage on disc to Janet to confirm that your computer is compatible with ours - text must be saved as an ASCII file - or send to Janet for further details.

Janet also appreciates receiving newsletter submissions on disc.

Now for some good news. When Sheila handed in our Guide Dog collecting box in July she was told that Venus was nearly finished her basic training and would shortly be going to Larkhall (near Glasgow) to be trained with her new owner, who comes from the north of Scotland. She has now (September) qualified - there's a picture of her later in the newsletter. The collecting box total at Silvercon was £80.51; at Conduit the box took approx £35 (we can't be sure of the exact amount as when the box was taken to Forfar it had also had some donations put in at an Away Team meeting). We are delighted to announce that from the money raised by the raffles, from sales of donated items at U.F.P., Silvercon and Conduit, plus the collecting box, we now have enough to cover the £1000 we need to sponsor another guide dog, very appropriate since Venus has now qualified.

For new members - about a year ago, one of our members, Joyce Devlin (now Urquhart), who breeds German Shepherds, donated a puppy (Jade) to the Guide Dog Association; they bought another puppy from the same litter (Aero). On 26th September we heard from Joyce that Aero was being taken to Forfar to begin his training on the weekend of 28/29 September and immediately contacted the GDA to see if there was any chance of our sponsoring Aero. We are delighted to tell you that there was no problem and that Aero has been reserved for us. Sheila hopes to hand over the money on Tuesday 8th October. We are now keeping our finger crossed, for ourselves and Joyce, that Aero will qualify okay. Incidentally, his hips have been X-rayed and he has no sign of HD. Jade is staying with her puppy walker for a little longer. She's a real 'mummy's girl' and is still a little too immature to begin training.

Joyce has asked us to give all dog-owners a warning. Aero was being walked on a beach when he came across a jellyfish, which he ate. Although he brought it up again almost immediately, some of the poison got into his system and he nearly died; he was in intensive care for a week.

We would like to thank all of you who bought tickets in the most recent raffle. The winners are: Joanna Brennan (Belfast) - IDIC Pendant, Morag Phillips (Kilmarnock) - 6 TNG Coasters and Lloyd Lewis (Bridgend Mid. Glam.) - a years membership of IDIC.

Our thanks to Marie Chettle, Lisa Dearnley-Davison, Richard Drinkwater, Barbara

Ellams, Mark French, Jane Hose, Muriel Jarrett, Marcia Pecor, Helen Ryder, Jean Sloan, Jenny Turner and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for sending information and/or cuttings.

Thank you to B Ambrose, Jean Barron, Lynne Baxter, S Blackwell, Avril Brown, Freda Boydeil, Sandy Catchick, Sandie Cayless, Edward Chivers, Martina Copple, Sheila Cornall, Linda Court, Charlotte Davis, Lisa Dearnley-Davison, Barbara Ellams, Karin Embacher, Sue Embury, Carol Fergusson, Mark French, Kathleen Glancy, J. Green, Lesley Hatch, Laurie Haynes, Christine Hornby, Muriel Jarrett, Kari M John, Michael Johnson, Kirstie Jordan, Christine Jones, R. Jones, Carol Kean, Brenda Kelsey, C Lewis, Lloyd Lewis, Page Lewis, Maggy and the children at her daughter's school, A Parris, Gloria Rigg, Stephen Rothwell, Barbara Rouse (thanks!), Karen Savage, J Schmidt, the Silvercon Committee, Ingrid Smith, Linda Smith, Sue Sneath, W Taylor, Lesley Thompson, Jenny Turner, Helen White, Helen Wimble, Edward Woo, Gaile Wood and everyone else who has donated money, collectibles, and/or used stamps for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

Unfortunately we can't make Midcon this year so our next convention will be Sol III in May. Leonard Nimoy fans have a treat if they can make the LN Con on November 22nd - 24th. See the amended advert under 'other conventions'.

The closing date for the next newsletter is November 13th and the newsletter will be posted out around December 4th.

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 29/9/91

LATEST STAR TREK NEWS

compiled by Janet Quanton

STAR TREK VI

Due for release in the U.S.A. on December 13th and in the U.K. on February 7th.

Entertainment Tonight 8/9/91. Reported by Robert T. Kirkwood:

After an opening shot of the Enterprise going into warp we close in on William Shatner dressed in what can only be described as a bear-skin suit of furs, rehearsing a fight scene inside a studio sound stage (fight as in "punch up"). We then see many familiar faces and some aliens (including the guy with the bolt-on eye-patch.)

The report then cuts to various interviews:

William Shatner: "We all fight tooth and nail to prevail over the forces of evil."

Leonard Nimoy: "It's a great adventure story... a great story about history in the making."

Walter Koenig: "You can look forward to a lot of Klingons... you can look forward to a film that has more guest performers than any other pictures have had."

We then cut to more on the set shots where we see many more aliens and a shot of Sarek behind a clapperboard. The only thing of interest mentioned was the use of Alaskan locations.

We then hear of the dreaded rumours of death. James Doohan quotes from what is said to be the last page of the script:

'Chekov says, "Well, is this goodbye?"

Uhura says, "We've been dead before."

The above quote loses its punch when written down but coming from James Doohan it was quite emotional. This is furthered when the cast are asked if this is the last movie:

William Shatner: "It's been written as the last one, everybody's going around saying it's the last one, I'm saying it's the last one."

DeForest Kelley: "I don't know. If I was running the studio and this picture turned out to make a hundred million dollars, I'd say, well what you goin' to do

with these old guys, farm 'em out now?"

George Takei: "Around January we should know if there's going to be a Star Trek 7".

A biography of Trek follows this, going from September the 8th, 1966 to the up and coming movie and beyond to the Next Generation and includes Leonard Nimoy saying that he saw Star Trek as a steady job and Brent Spiner saying that acting in Trek is like "doing Shakespeare or wearing a towel round your neck and flying round the room." We see some very up to date scenes from TNG including Gene Roddenberry cutting the cake at the party for the 100th episode.

The report ends with the ET presenter admitting he's a Trekker and saying the the 5th season of TNG starts on September 23rd and that the episodes featuring Leonard Nimoy are due in November.

STAR TREK on BBC

Star Trek: The Next Generation screening dates and ratings - the figures are taken from Broadcast:

37	12/6/91	Contagion (37).	BBC 2 Rating: 3 - 3.6 million viewers.
38	19/6/91	The Royale (38)	BBC 2 Rating: 5 - 3.6 million viewers.
39	10/7/91	Time Squared (39)	BBC 2 Rating: 7 - 2.8 million viewers.
40	17/7/91	Icarus Factor (40)	BBC 2 Rating: 8 - 2.8 million viewers.
41	24/7/91	Pen Pals (41)	BBC 2 Rating: 4 - 3.5 million viewers.
42	7/8/91	Q Who? (42)	BBC 2 Rating: 3 - 3.9 million viewers.
43	21/8/91	Samaritan Snare (43)	BBC 2 Rating: 5 - 3.3 million viewers.
44	28/8/91	Up The Long Ladder (44)	BBC 2 Rating: 4 - 3.7 million viewers.
45	4/9/91	Man Hunt (45)	
46	18/9/91	The Emissary (46)	
47	25/9/91	Peak Performance (47)	
48	2/10/91	Shades of Gray (48)	

As you no doubt noticed, we lost 4 episodes of TNG during June, July and August because of tennis and cricket.

STAR TREK'S 25th ANNIVERSARY

Plans to celebrate in the U.S. include on September 28th a special marathon showing of 10 episodes of the original series (voted on by viewers) culminating with an original two-hour prime-time special *[let's hope the BBC pick this up]*; December 5th a Star Trek Ceremony at Mann's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood; December 13th the opening of ST VI; December 27th DeForest Kelley will receive a star in Hollywood's Walk of Fame.

In 1992, Star Trek will be joining in the celebration of International Space Year. January also brings the opening of Star Trek: Federation Science, an Oregon Museum of Science and Industry interactive science education exhibit that will travel for five years.

Also during 1992, the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution will present an exhibit exploring the cultural context of the original Star Trek series, including the ways the series helped the public understand the importance of space exploration.

Additional surprises are in store throughout the year.
(info Paramount News July/August 1991.)

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

TNG received 10 Emmy nominations for the 4th season but unfortunately only 2 awards.

5th Season Airing Schedule

Note - writing credits are not finalised at this stage.

Redemption II (201) 23/9/91 Written by Ronald D. Moore, Directed by David Carson.

Darmok (203) 30/9/91 Written by Joe Menosky, Directed by Rick Kolbe.

Ensign Ro (203) 7/10/91 Story by Rick Berman & Michael Piller, Teleplay by Michael Piller, Directed by Les Landau

Silicon Avatar (204) 14/10/91 Teleplay by Keri Taylor, Directed by Cliff Bole.

Disaster (205) 21/10/91 Teleplay by Ronald D. Moore, Directed by Gabrielle Beaumont.

The Game (206) 28/10/91 Story by Susan Sackett & Fred Bronson and Brannon Braga, Teleplay by Brannon Braga, Directed by Cory Allen.

Unification: Part 1 (207) 4/11/91

Unification: Part 2 (208) 11/11/91 Story by Rick Berman & Michael Piller, Teleplay by Michael Piller, Directed by Cliff Bole.

The Game - Wil Wheaton returns as Wesley in this episode. The original story was written by Susan Sackett and Fred Bronson but the final script, written by Brannon Braga, is somewhat different from the original story.

Unification is Star Trek's first 2-part episode since Menagerie, in 1966 (the cliff hangers don't really count). Leonard Nimoy is appearing for the first time in TNG as Spock and Mark Lenard returns as Sarek. Also guest starring is Malachi Throne who played Commodore Jose Mendez in Menagerie. Part II of Unification was filmed the week beginning 9/9/91 and Part I the following week.

CREATION CONVENTIONS

We received an open letter from Jessica Devoy about her dissatisfaction with the 25th Anniversary Creation Convention in L.A. Among other things she was complaining about having to queue for hours even though she had paid in advance for preferred seating and that no photos were allowed when the main guests - Bill, Leonard, De and Gene - were there.

Jessica also mentioned two points which we felt we should let you know about. She says that Creation Cons are attempting to contractually lock-in as many members of the Next Gen cast as they can so that they are only able to appear at Creation Cons. She also said the Creation Cons have just bought a license from Paramount to be the only company allowed to sell pictures and photographs related to Star Trek, meaning that NO shops in the U.S. can sell them.

We have also received this letter from Linda Smith:

Creation Conventions - Does anyone know about them? Well you should and if we don't put pen to paper and make our feeling known we might very well in the near future have no fan run conventions at all. They are using two methods in their attempt to corner the market on organised fan activities: exclusive appearance contracts and licensing agreements. By attempting to sign all the Star Trek stars to exclusive contracts Creation would deprive all other conventions of their star attraction. Licensing agreements mean Creation can control the flow of merchandising to the fan. The price of any goods would go up so Creation can make their profit. Can you see Creation giving all the profit from a convention to charity? Star Trek belongs to the fans, after all without them saying, 'No, Star Trek will not die', it would have disappeared years ago.

What can we do? Creation depends on the ignorance of fans. Spread the word. Write to the cast members and politely let them know your views on this matter. Creation and Paramount are only interested in making money. It's up to us to protect fandom.

We have asked both Richard Arnold and Guy Vardaman about the above. It seems that it is correct that Creation are trying to tie up the TNG actors in the States. This will not affect British conventions (and presumably no other conventions outside the U.S.) but that is of no help to the fans in the States. There is also

that it is correct that Creation are trying to tie up the TNG actors in the States. This will not affect British conventions (and presumably no other conventions outside the U.S.) but that is of no help to the fans in the States. There is also the point that at some future time Creation may try to spread their business overseas. You can write to all of the actors c/o Star Trek Office, Paramount Pictures, 5555 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles 90038, U.S.A.

Creation Cons do have a license from Paramount to sell Star Trek photos but we were assured that it is not an exclusive license and does not stop anyone else getting a license. We suspect that because Creation have a license they are trying to stop anyone without a license selling ST photos at Creation conventions - and maybe elsewhere.

STAR TREK IN THE NEWS

compiled by Janet Quarton

The purpose of this column is to let you know which magazines to look out for as well as letting you know some of what has been printed in the papers. Most magazines are available from the book shops in the info sheets.

STAR TREK THE OFFICIAL FAN CLUB 81 August 1991 - A special with interviews with Gene Roddenberry, William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy, DeForest Kelley, James Doohan, Nichelle Nichols, Walter Koenig, George Takei, Patrick Stewart, Jonathan Frakes, Brent Spiner, Michael Dorn, Marina Sirtis, Gates McFadden & LeVar Burton plus 4 photos from STVI and an article on the 25th Anniversary Creation Con.

STARLOG 169 August 1991. Article on Composer Gerald Fried.

STARLOG 170 September 1991. Article on STIV - The Voyage Home.

STARLOG 171 October 1991. Articles on Brent Spiner, George F. Slavin - writer of Mark of Gideon - and Seatrek (complete with photos).

TV ZONE 20 July 1991

3rd part of article on TNG Special effects; Book Reviews - Renegade & Triangle.

TV ZONE 21 August 1991. Article on Scripting for TNG.

TV ZONE 22 September 1991. Reviews of the novels Boogeyman and Legacy plus an article on Jonathan Frakes, actor and director.

TV ZONE 23 October 1991. Review of the novel Battlestations plus an article on Majel Barrett, Troi - The Manhunter.

TV ZONE SPECIAL 2 August 1991 - Celebrating ST's 25th Anniversary. Articles on 25 Years of Star Trek, The Enterprise NCC 1701 - NCC 1701D, Ricard Arnold, Harland Ellison's City On The Edge of Forever, Bios on Guinan, Pulaski, O'Brien, Lwaxana Troi and Q

STARBURST 157 September 1991 - Article on STVI: The Undiscovered Country.

STARBURST STAR TREK SPECIAL - Articles on: ST-TMP, ST Books, Ilia & Decker, Sarek, Sybok, Saavik, Khan, ST Comics plus Episode Listings for the Original Series, Animations, Movies, and TNG (first 4 seasons).

STAR TREK 25th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL Starlog Full of articles and photos on Trek.

STAR TREK POSTER BOOKS

Issue 2 - Articles on Will Riker, The Naked Now, The Code of Honor.

Issue 3 - Articles on Tasha Yar, The Last Outpost, Where No One Has Gone Before.
 Issue 4 - Articles on Clubs and Conventions, Lonely Among Us & Justice.
 Issue 5 - Articles on Picard, The Battle & Hide And Q.
 Issue 6 - Articles on Worf and Haven and The Big Goodbye

CINEFANTASTIQUE Vol 22 No. 2 October, 1991 - 35 page section on TNG looking back on the 4th season and forward to the 5th. Includes various articles and 4th season story synopses plus ratings.

THE HUMANIST Vol 52, No. 2 March/April 1991
 An exclusive in-depth interview with Gene Roddenberry - 26 pages.

"Beam Us Down. Trekkies Head for Glasgow on Show's 25th Anniversary"
 Evening Times, 12/7/91. Article about Silvercon with a picture of John de Lancie, Marnie Mosiman & Cathy Melrose.

"Fans of Star Trek Boldly go - To a Convention" The Scotsman 15/7/91
 Article about Silvercon with quotes from Valerie and Jacqueline Comben.

"Beam me up, sor, to be sure" Evening Herald, 22/7/91
 Gene Kerrigan was outraged by the TNG episode Up The Long Ladder and its portrayal of the Irish - he called it racist.

"Sky's the Limit for Marathon Trekkers" Birmingham Mail, 20/7/91
 Article about the popularity and availability of ST videos.

"Trekkies Search For Final Frontier" The Independant, August.
 Article about ST fandom and the upcoming Conduit Convention in Manchester.

"Star Trekking" RTE Guide 10-16 August, 1991.
 An excellent 3 page article, with colour photos from ST:TNG, about Silvercon. It is written by Linda Kavanagh, a self confessed Star Trek fan.

"Star Trek fans: An Apology" The Sun 17/8/91
 After reporting in the Sun on July 15th that there had been a riot at Silvercon because fans had expected to see a full-size [????] replica of the Enterprise the paper now printed an apology saying, "In fact only two fans expressed their anger and there was no riot. Neither were the police called. We apologise to convention organisers Silvercon for these unfortunate errors."

"It's Kirk VS. Picard" TV Guide (U.S. Edition) Aug 31 - Sept 6
 Included an article on ST's 25th Anniversary, an article comparing Kirk and Picard and asking readers to choose between them on a mission to save Earth (hopefully one of our U.S. members will send in the result of the poll), a preview of ST VI, a trivia quiz and Gene Roddenberry's favourite episodes - Amok Time, Balance of Terror, The City on the Edge of Forever, the Devil In the Dark, The Enemy Within, the Menagerie, The Naked Time, The Return of the Archons, Where No Man Has Gone Before and The Trouble With Tribbles.

"£1m Return" Daily Mail 2/9/91. Leonard Nimoy has agreed to a one-off appearance in TNG for £1 million.

"To Boldly Go Where No Woman Has Gone Before" Daily Mail 3/9/91.
 Article about "Man Hunt" and Lwaxana Troi's exploits. They printed a photo of Janice Rand by mistake.

"Star Tracks" Daily Mail 6/9/91. This says Shatner & Nimoy are to make an LP with tracks which include Fly Me To The Moon and Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds.

"Star Trek Gaily Goes..." Daily Mail, 17/9/91.
 This says that in the new TNG season viewers will occasionally see lesbian and gay couples displaying signs of affection, such as holding hands, in a 24th century where sexuality is a matter of public indifference.

"Beam Me Up The Aisle, Scotty" Liverpool Echo, 19/9/91

This article says that Liverpool actress, Kim Cattrall, will play a Vulcan woman and marry Spock in STVI.

A similar article appeared in the Daily Mail on 20/9/91.

"Enterprise Zone" An article on ST's 25th Anniversary by Robert Leedham. He says 'Kirk is very much a Kennedy clone, right down to the womanising.' It all it's a favourable article.

ACTOR INFO

compiled by Janet Quarton

Gene Roddenberry: on May 10, 1991 Gene received the Humanist Arts Award from the American Humanist Society in recognition of his distinguished contributions to humanism and humanist thought.

Gates McFadden gave birth to a baby boy (9lb) on June 10th. (info DWB Aug '91)

DeForest Kelley will receive a star in Hollywood's Walk of Fame on December 27th. (info Paramount News).

Patrick Stewart "Trekkie Trusts Aliens" An article saying Patrick Stewart once shared a house with a ghost; "It was a poltergeist haunting this old house I lived in. I believe in UFOs, aliens and life on other planets - I hope they're friendly."

Grooge Takei was in Korea during August. He went here to write an article on Seoul (as far as Ena Glogowsaka knows) for the American magazine Transpacific. He is writing a series of articles for them. The first was in June, and it was about theatre and audiences.

William Shatner and Walter Keonig appeared in a recent episode of Columbo and George Takei in a recent episode of Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea.

WILLIAM SHATNER INTERVIEW ON CINEMA 2

Transcript by Mazhar S Mirza

William Shatner was interviewed for Cinema 2, a radio show on Saturdays at 5pm on Radio 2, and it was broadcast on either 3 or 10/8/91 (sorry I don't remember which week it was.)

What follows is a transcript of the relevant parts of the broadcast, presented by Natalie Anglesee (I hope that's how it's spelt!)

NA - ...We talk with William Shatner in Hollywood on the set of the last ST movie, ST VI: The Undiscovered Country.

WS - For me there's a definite feeling of nostalgia, already a sense of loss, a sense of sadness that I won't be working with these dear friends of mine again.

After a few reviews, the presenter returned to the subject.

NA - ... Paramount have just started work on the sixth and very definitely, they tell us, the final movie in this famous series.

You then hear the introduction to the ST TV show with William Shatner's "Space - the final frontier..." etc. into the TV theme music.

NA - The famous ST theme which has graced all those TV episodes covering the voyages of the Starship Enterprise.

William Shatner is currently hard at work on the sixth and final film, and Judy Sloan caught up with him on the set of ST VI: The Undiscovered Country.

JS - William, the TV series of ST had been off the air for more than ten years, what was it that spurred the first ST movie?

WS - Star Wars. I'm sure that on occasion when I would drive by Paramount Studios that I'd hear a shot ring out as various executives killed themselves when they realised that Star Wars was this big hit and they had this series, Star Trek, that had caught everybody's imagination, and they had to come out with a big motion picture. So they decided shortly thereafter to spend a lot of money and bring out a big ST. And so we brought out ST:TMP and it didn't do well because everybody had forgotten, including ourselves, that ST was about people, and not about technology. And we were given a second chance making it for less money and concentrating on faces.

JS - Was it easy to slip back into the character of Captain Kirk for you?

WS - Well, I'd forgotten what I had done, so I had to look at some segments of TV to see what it was I had done. I remember Alexander the Great just before I started this ST, the series. And I had this feeling of Greek hero, and the look of eagles and classical antagonist-protagonist kind of thing. I had to recollect that kind of thing: standing up straight and looking proud and being a military man. And I began to realise that in addition to all that, I had played it with humour, and I had to recapture that kind of almost tongue in cheek thing.

JS - The cast of ST has a wonderful rapport on the screen. Do you all get on off the screen as well?

WS - Oh, very well. I really love Leonard and DeForest very much. All the others too, of course, but I'm closer to these guys because I spend so much time on the set with them. There is a very definite bond of affection between the three of us.

JS - Why do you think the public love ST so much?

WS - I'm sure it has to do with the stories and the cast of characters, and I'm veering towards the Joseph Campbell thesis of Myth. And maybe we supply some kind of mything that is MYTHING in modern culture.

JS - You directed the last ST movie. Is it hard for you to come back and not have the kind of control that you had on the last film?

WS - It's not hard; it's so easy to sit back here and wait for someone to call me and not have to be troubled about all the things that go into making a film. On the other hand, I enjoyed it so much that I miss it and I would love to avail myself of the opportunity to do it again - that is, to direct. It's a great deal of onerous responsibility involved in directing a film. At the same time there's a great joy and creativity.

JS - You're in midst of shooting ST VI. What's the title of this one?

WS - The Undiscovered Country. And as I speak to you now, we have less than two weeks to do it... to finish it.

JS - What's it about?

WS - It's about an hour and a half... (chuckle, chuckle)

JS - Does the story follow on from the first film or is this like later on or something?

WS - No, no, they're totally separate.

JS - Is this being filmed to be specifically the last one, or are you going to leave an opening where there could be a sequel?

WS - No, this is being filmed as the last one. And there are goodbyes here. On the other hand, I suppose if it did, you know, \$100 million or better at the box office, why the studio... several shots would ring out again and people would kill themselves and say we have to make another one. But since they have to lead us to the set, cause we can't find it - and once we get there we can't remember why we're there - we're getting so old, that I think this is the last one.

JS - Well, I wish you the best of luck with this last ST movie. Thanks so much.
 WS - Thank you.
 NA - William Shatner in conversation with Judy Sloan in Hollywood. As to whether it really will be the last ST movie... well, I wouldn't bet on it. If Paramount has a bad three years, they'll probably dig them up again just you watch. Anyway, last ST or not, it arrives on our screens early next year.

MERCHANDISE

compiled by Janet Quarton

BOOKS -

Aug P56 T50 Legacy by Michael Jan Friedman. Pocket Books & Titan
 Sept P31 T51 Battlestations! by Diane Carey. Titan
 Oct TNG18 Q In Law by Peter David. Pocket Books & Titan
 Nov P57 T52 The Rift by Peter David. Pocket Books & Titan
 Dec TNG19 Perchance to Dream by Howard Weinstein. Pocket Books & Titan

The ST:TNG Technical Manual by Michael Okuda and Rick Sternbach (Oct)

Star Trek : The First 25 Years by Gene Roddenberry and Susan Sackett.
 Unfortunately we have heard this book has been delayed indefinitely.

Star Trek: The Next Generation Poster Magazine. £1.50 per issue, now fortnightly.

Coming Soon:

Reunion by Michael Jan Friedman. The first ST:TNG Hardcover Novel - Captain Picard's past and present collide on board the U.S.S. Enterprise.

The Classic Episodes Vol 1 - 3 1991 The 25th Anniversary Editions adapted by James Blish. Bantam Books. \$5.99 each U.S.

This is a re-issue of Star Trek's 1 - 12 by James Blish, now in 3 volumes, 1 season per volume and the episodes printed in production order. Volume 1 contains an introduction by D.C. Fontana, the prefaces from the original Star Trek's 3 - 11 and the forward from Star Trek 12. Volume 2 contains an article by David Gerrold and Volume 3 an article by Norman Spinrad. Two episode not in the books are Mudd's Women and I Mudd as these were originally published separately, along with an original Mudd story, in Mudd's Angels by Judy Blish.

25th Anniversary Commemorative Plate featuring Kirk, Spock, McCoy, Scotty, Sulu, Chekov, Uhura and the Enterprise is being advertised in some magazines. Price £28 (plus £1.50 p&p.) If you don't see an advert try writing to The Hamilton Collection, Marmon House, Copenhagen Street, Worcester WR1 2HS.

The Official Die-cast Replica of the U.S.S. Enterprise Franklin Mint £245.00.

This 15" replica has a removable dome that reveals a detailed reconstruction of the bridge (not to scale) and the hangar bay slides out to reveal a shuttlecraft (also not to scale). Write for details to Franklin Mint, 138 Bromley Road, London SE6 1BP.

Note: In the States Franklin Mint have also produced pewter models of a Klingon ship, a Romulan ship, a set comprising of the Enterprise, a Klingon and a Romulan ship.

VIDEOS

ST:TNG

MEASURE OF A MAN/THE DAUPHIN (18)

CONTAGION/THE ROYALE (19)

TIME SQUARED/THE ICARUS FACTOR (20)

PEN PALS/Q WHO (21)

Due Next

SAMARITAN SNARE/UP THE LONG LADDER (22)

MANHUNT/EMISSARY (23)

PEAK PERFORMANCE/SHADES OF GREY (24)

EVOLUTION/THE ENSIGNS OF COMMAND (25)

THE SURVIVORS/WHO WATCHES THE WATCHERS (26)

THE BONDING/BOOBY TRAP (27)

POSTBAG

We welcome your letters of comment and discussion for this section on the understanding that they will be printed and may be edited for length or content at our discretion.

Some pointers: When referring to anything in a previous n/l make it clear what you are talking about for those who do not have that newsletter.

Keep your letters as short as possible - a maximum of 700-750 words. If you find this impossible consider whether you should be writing an article instead.

We encourage active discussion, but please try to avoid negative and aggressive letters.

Keep letters on a separate sheet from other submissions and put 'for postbag'.

Sheila Clark - Dundee

To Richard Fuller - I take your point about my comments re Patrick Stewart's acting; in saying that he could act rings round all the other Trek actors I was guilty of a sort of verbal shorthand. I had no intention of denigrating any of the other actors (of either sex) or implying that they were anything other than excellent in their parts (apart from one who in my opinion was weak to start with but improved - and I'm not saying which one that is). However, I personally classify Stewart up there with Dame Edith Evans and John Gielgud - the sort of actor who appears once or maybe twice in a generation in any given country; one of a group (of both sexes) that may consist of perhaps fifty or sixty over the last three centuries. (I'm talking here of Western-culture actors - to the best of my knowledge actors from other cultures have different standards and I don't know anything about those - but I imagine they, too, have a small nucleus of actors who are generally considered outstanding. Perhaps one of our Japanese members might like to say something about traditional Japanese theatre?)

To Helen White - re diseases - I'd suspect that Humans - or indeed any race - would either be totally immune to alien bugs or else very, very susceptible, with absolutely no defence against them.

The question of speed/friction that has arisen as a response to Wink of an Eye - a snail would probably consider that a cheetah was in imminent danger of burning up. Remember, it's not so very long since people were afraid that the speed of a train might kill them - they thought the air pressure at 20 mph would make it impossible for them to breathe! But speeds are comparative. Years ago I read a short story (I can't remember who wrote it, but I'd dearly like to get hold of a copy again) where a survey team checking out a planet found a technological culture where everyone moved very slowly (by Human standards). A top-of-the-range sports car, for example, had a maximum speed of about 20 mph. One of the team watched a bricklayer at work for a while; day and night on the planet were each roughly 6 standard months long and using that as a basis and estimating that the natives worked the equivalent of an 8-hour day, the scientist worked out how many bricks a day were being laid... and commented, "I don't know of any other race in the galaxy that can work so quickly."

I've been thinking about favourite scenes (as well as the shuttle going round the Enterprise in ST:TMP); Kirk teasing Spock at the end of Gailileo Seven; the end of Balance of Terror when Spock says "I saved a trained navigator" - that scene was

one of the things that drew me to Trek in the first place; the end of Mirror Mirror after Kirk and Co. step down from the transporter; and a top favourite comes from the bloopers reel - Patterns of Force, Kirk and Spock contacting the ship, and a male voice saying "Uhura here". Shatner and Nimoy caught each other's eye and they both collapsed laughing. It's such a perfect example of the chemistry between the actors.

Kathleen Glancy - Edinburgh

On Simon Goodall's point about Geordi's optic nerves, eye surgery is the most complicated kind. Brain surgery is easy by comparison. In the hundreds of years to the time of Classic Trek they have been unable to find a cure for certain kinds of blindness - witness Miranda Jones. It's not wonderful that in the 70-odd years up to TNG all they've managed to do is improve the sensors which enable both Miranda and Geordi to 'see'.

To Gloria Fry - I'd agree that James Doohan's accent is not Aberdonian, even if he fondly imagines it is. It's not really Glaswegian either. To be absolutely authentic it should be Borders - the Scotts were a Border clan, a contentious lot who when they were not fighting the English fought their rivals the Kerrs. I liked your Scottish connection article, but am constrained to point out -

1. Grayson, Amanda's maiden name, is English. There's no evidence one way or the other of Scottish descent.

2. McCoy is actually an *Irish* name. Hence the famous McCoy/Hatfield feud - the Hatfields were of course of English descent.

3. McGivers is not a recognised Scots surname. It could be a corruption of McIvor, sometimes spelt McIver, I suppose.

4. McHuron is a mongrel name. Huron isn't Scots, it's Native American. Maybe she is descended from some wild Scots girl who emigrated to Canada, had a good time with lots of the local boys, and gave the result the name McHuron because though she couldn't single out the father she knew he was of the Huron tribe because all her lovers were.

To Lloyd Lewis - I fear we will have to agree to differ, as I thought Ralph Bakshi made a total mess of Lord of the Rings. He *might* do better if he had photographs to base his characters on, as much of my objection lay in how the LOTR characters looked. Take Boromir, who comes from the most civilised city in Middle Earth and is drawn as a sort of Viking/Conan the Barbarian figure. He *carried* a horn, true, but nobody in the book suggests he had them on his helmet. I have not time to enumerate what was wrong with Santa Claus Conquers the Martians. I *would* tell you whether I found more to criticise than enjoy in ST V if I hadn't vowed not to mention it again.

On the letter page debate, I can keep my comments short, as Sherry Golding and Linda Norman have said most of it for me. I feel there is a danger of blandness if nobody ever says anything controversial. Besides, one person's adulation may be another's imitation. You can't get anything more positive than Elena Bond on Riker, for example, but someone who hated Riker or even who felt that true perfection belongs only to God and we shouldn't write about any human being as perfect might still be offended. I should perhaps make it clear that I quite like Riker, if not as much as Elena does, and am using her as an example only because of the total lack of negativism in her letters and certainly not because I find her comments offensive in any way.

To Fiona Campbell - from her own account, Zarabeth didn't actually do anything to be exiled except be born into the wrong family. She was exiled by a tyrannic ruler, so you can assume either she is royalty and he usurped the throne or, more likely given the technology level, he was a dictator and her relations rebelled against him, or perhaps merely spoke against him. [Ed: Thanks to the others who mentioned this.]

Christine Snow's article was thought-provoking. I've always assumed that Edith was not destined to die under that particular vehicle, but would have died that night in some other accident. This was originally prevented by McCoy. As for

the wine, given his state it is reasonable to doubt if he was destined to do anything significant in any time line. Perhaps he was due to die the next day of cirrhosis of the liver anyway.

I liked Kari M John's Data piece too. Nobody in the Data Debate has yet mentioned the first sentient robot, Eando Binder's Adam Link. Adam was not humanoid or capable of sexual function with a Human, but was shown as having feelings. The stories are rather cliched (Adam gains popular acceptance by saving a child from a fire) but fun.

To Jason Hart - Andreivich is not Chekov's middle name. Irina is simply using the Russian form of address for friends which consists of the person addressed's first name and their father's first name with the suffix 'vich' or 'ovich', meaning 'son of' or 'ova' meaning 'daughter of'. So what this tells us is Chekov's father was called Andrei.

Sheila, I sympathise with your problem with Kaulidren (in Renegade). I once had quite a good fantasy novel spoiled by the first line, which had a young woman brought to be married to an incarnation of evil (willingly - she wasn't a nice girl) shivering with cold. If you want to have such a character taken seriously, and especially if she's to shiver on P 1, you should *not* call her Aeschu.

Maggy - Cheylesmore, Coventry

Did you know about the new mail order firm selling the same goods as Lincoln Enterprises? It's in England, so waiting time is a lot less. The address is KJB Enterprises Ltd, 79 Habrour View Road, Pagham, West Sussex PO21 4RH. [Ed: We haven't had any dealings with KJB but Sheffield Space Centre, who attend most of the ST conventions, also import merchandise from both Lincoln Enterprises and Intergalactic Trading Co. Ltd. Sheffield's address is 33 The Wicker, Sheffield S3 8HS.]

Sue Embury - Nr. Monmouth, Gwent

My compliments to Ann Peters on her well reasoned piece "Compassion in Starfleet's Android Officer" (n/1 16).

I also greatly enjoyed Mark Alex Pidd's article on the Hornblower connection (n/1 16). I love the Hornblower stories and very much admire C.S. Forrester's style of writing, especially the way he manages to convey a very real sense of action and excitement in the battle scenes. There are great character portrayals too. I agree with Mark that Picard is more like Hornblower than Jim Kirk ever was. Also, now I come to think about it, the blossoming relationship between Picard and Riker is reminiscent of the one between Hornblower and Bush.

I'm obliged to modify the criticism I made of TNG in Newsletter 16 - namely, that emphasis on morality interferes with the adventure aspects of the stories. Now, although I still think that was a valid criticism of the overall quality of first season stories, things are changing! By mid second season everything seems to be coming together much better. Just take "A Matter of Honour" for instance. What a great episode! - action, adventure, humour, a strong moral message, and they achieved all that atmosphere of threat and suspense without resorting to a shoot out! That's what I call good Star Trek. The very next week we had "Measure of a Man" in which the moral message is so engrossing that no additional elements are necessary.

So long as TNG reaches these standards I have no criticism worth mentioning. I'll just sit back and enjoy it, - which is exactly what I did at UFP. Having now seen a selection of third and fourth season episodes, I am pleased to say that the new guys finally got it together, even to the extent of developing believable relationships, and some extremely effective humour. They've just taken a while to get into their stride.

To Lorraine Goodison - I'm quite certain that the unique relationships in Original Trek were there from very early on. I got hooked in the first season and

I distinctly remember that the humorous interplay between McCoy and Spock was one of the very first things that really grabbed my attention. Surely if Original Trek had taken more than a few episodes to get into its stride it would have been cancelled after its first season rather than its third, nor would there have been any movies, or any TNG for us to argue about!

How nice to hear from US member Kimberly Pederson with her news from the Denver Con. I seized upon all those snippets of information about STVI from Leonard Nimoy: no-one dies, (hooray!) but it's definitely the last movie (sob!). I have heard from several sources now that there will be no more movies of any sort with the old cast because the principle actors have had enough of playing the roles after twenty five years. Can't blame them I guess, but I'm sure going to miss them.

To Susan Burdfield - Re: children at cons. I have taken my two boys along to several now, and a good time was had by all. However, mine are by now aged nine and thirteen years, and usually quite happy to sit glued in front of various video showings for the whole time. A five year old might need rather more varied entertainment and supervision, but I have seen many of this age and younger behaving themselves very nicely and seeming to have a good time. On the whole I think a Star Trek Con is a very good family event.

Kay Stagg - Guildford, Surrey

To Jenny Turner and Jean Sloan - Thank you both for the reviews of my zines in n/ls 16 and 17. It was much appreciated and the orders have flooded in since. I'm wearing the path out to the Post Office, so thank you both very much.

To Helen White - I thoroughly enjoyed your description of Sea Trek 91. It was very entertaining. However, as regards the word fantasy in relation to Trek. In my dictionary it says... a series of pleasing images usually serving to fulfil a need not gratified in reality... And then I thought of Captain James T. Kirk and so I guess for me Trek is fantasy... and probably is to quite a few others.

To Kathleen Glancy - In Bread and Circuses, Kirk was a prisoner too. If you are assuming that Kirk and the female slave indulged, then why can you not assume that Kirk asked all those questions too and that they mutually agreed to 'indulge'.

And anyway I like seeing Kirk with the females and consider the slave girl very fortunate. If Kirk's attitude towards women is wrong in the series then blame the script writers of the 60's and the attitude to women at that time, not Kirk. You cannot compare it with that of say 'Picard' today because in the 90's the whole male attitude has changed towards women.

To Linda Norman - Needless to say I don't agree with your comments in n/1 17. Particularly your comment 'If people really can't deal with their favourite character being attacked in fun, I would once again suggest that they are taking it too seriously.' No, Linda, some of it is most definitely NOT written in fun. To be honest I would say that I am like most people in that I do not like something I love being criticised, even when it is in fun and so if that is called taking it too seriously, then yes I do.

You also say IDIC means 'accepting and acknowledging the good and bad in everything including Trek.' There is a world of difference between acceptance and acknowledgement, than certain people going over and over the same thing again and again. Mr. Shatner's hair for one. And I took exception to him being called just Shatner. I wonder how many TNG fans would tolerate Spinner, Frakes or Dorn. I think a courteous Mr. Shatner would not go amiss.

You also said 'the original Trek had a dream at its core but it was also flawed in many ways as are the films and to a lesser extent TNG.' Come, Come... to a lesser extent TNG. Where is the IDIC in that comment? I could give you whole pages of things flawed in TNG but I would not for the simple reason that I know there are a lot of fans who would be just as hurt and angry as I feel when someone

makes a snidey remark about classic Trek and the actors/characters in it.

I would just like everyone to remember that without classic Trek... Kirk... Spock... McCoy and the others, there would be no films, no TNG and no fandom. I am not saying there should not be any criticism, but there is a world of difference between constructive and negative criticism and the ones who write the latter know exactly what I mean.

Regarding children at Cons, I would imagine it would be nearly impossible to arrange a creche unless the Convention Committee was prepared to break every rule in the book when it came to child care. It is not a case of leaving children under the age of five with unqualified people any more. There has to be such a thing as insurance and with that comes the question of safety, hygiene... the list is endless. And even if all those problems were solved, are the Committee going to be able to find a Nursery Nurse attending the con who would be prepared to look after small children instead of enjoying themselves, and doing what they have paid to do? I am a Registered Childminder and I know only too well all the rules and regulations that go side by side with child care for the under fives, and NO, I'm not offering my services. In fact Child Minders are only registered for the County they are registered in.

I expect I am about to put the cat amongst the pigeons because I really do not think that a Convention is a place for children. The only ones who really take it in their stride are the very small babies, but once they are crawling is it really fair to keep them strapped in a pushchair all day? I realise that older children are left to their own devices but consider that unsafe, particularly when I think of the number of young children I've seen playing in the lifts and on the bannisters above the 6th floor stair well at the the Adelphi in Liverpool.

I did not bring my children to a Convention when they were young for that reason, and in fact did not start going to Cons until I felt they were old enough for me to leave them for a few days. To show how strongly I felt about it, I actually missed the one and only Convention which William Shatner attended in 1982. It is something I will always look back on and regret but I know I would still do the same thing again. At that time my son was 5 and my daughter 7.

On the other hand I doubt I could have coped with seeing Bill Shatner in the flesh so to speak, and also kept an eye on my five year old son, whose main aim in life at that time was to drive his mother demented. For those of you who have to take your children with you, it is worth trying to find someone who will have them for the weekend. There is nothing like attending a Con without someone constantly saying... Mmmmmmm. For a few short days it is bliss. I would not want a steady diet of it but for those few short days... oh, boy, roll on Midcon '91 and Sol III '92.

Helen White - Bracknell, Berks

Hello to everyone I met at Ne'a'driar, especially Miri and Ricko.

To Fiona Campbell - Never fear, lots of people go to cons alone; once you're there, you're not alone anyway. I went to two major cons by myself before I met my current 'gang', and I had no problems. Just make yourself a promise that you'll enjoy it, go up and say hello to people, and they'll talk to you, and you won't be on your own any more. Fandom is like a huge great big family, anyway - everyone just seems to muck in together.

To Liz Caldwell - I agree with you re Data not recognising emotions. After all, they're one of those things that you can't teach someone, you have to learn what they are for yourself.

To Edward Woo - I don't agree with you re TNG being 'once is enough'. I could sit and watch it all day, and have done several times before now, but then I've seen 94 episodes so far, and they do get better and better.

Also, re Riker saying, "hell" a lot. I agree with you, it gets a bit

tedious, but I think he'd blow his credibility if he went round saying things like, "blinking flip" instead. (My favourite 'cross' phrase at the moment.)

To Lloyd Lewis - I hope that you've had my letter by now, but in case anyone else is following your, Jeff's and my Japanese ramblings, I was taught to use the positive form of the verb plus 'ka', although I do know that you can do it the other way too!

To Richard Fuller - It's okay to get angry; it's what you do with that anger that matters. What you don't do, unless you want to suffer severe mental problems (eg depression) is suppress it - or any other emotion - after all, we aren't Vulcans, no matter how much we might wish that we are! Also, we do need anger, in its 'useful' form; what if people had said of Hitler, "Oh, we must be very tolerant, he's not really doing anyone any harm."? What we don't need, in my view, is people who use getting angry as an excuse for violence and aggression.

To Kathleen Glancy - With regard to your comment on racism, I, too, was intending to be humorous. Oops!

Also, I totally agree with you re Kirk's women; I was never at all interested in them. Give me Spock and Bones any day!

To Christine Snow - I loved your ways for Tasha to return.

David, W. Jones - Ammanford, Dyfed

I agree with Edward Woo's view about Deanna Troi that she does little if anything on the Bridge. They would be better off with Guinan as a counselor.

[Ed: David runs U.S.S. Defiant, a chapter of I.F.T.]

Karen Davies - Acock's Green, Birmingham

I have been reading with great interest the various views and comments about Data in the letters. Personally, I agree with Gloria Fry that he seems the most Human of all of them; he certainly has more compassion.

One thing has been bothering me though: considering Data is supposedly partly chemical, how come that when Riker removed his arm in 'The Measure of a Man' that some of this fluid didn't leak out? Could somebody please explain that to me. Apart from that small detail, that particular episode has been my very favourite so far. I think Brent Spiner is a wonderful actor and deserves an Emmy award at least for his portrayal of Data.

Like most Star Trek fans I was horrified at the thought of the Next Generation, but now I think it is better than the original in many ways, at least people don't get killed week after week. Captain Picard is wonderful, and sexy to boot.

With regard to the Make It So Zines, why are there 2 conflicting stories about? In one Wesley was 3 in another he was 9 when he died; as for the idea of him being Captain Picard's son, well... words fail me. Apart from this I think the stories are great and I love the poems, especially the one about Data - Pinnochio. *[Ed: Each writer has their own interpretation of the Star Trek universe so as long as stories do not conflict with the facts in aired TNG - up to the episode the writer has seen - they are free to speculate. Part of the fun in fan fiction is exploring the Trek universe. Stories and poems in a fanzine are not intended to fit together in the same timeline. Some stories which are printed do deliberately conflict with facts as given in TNG but these are known as Alternate Universe stories.]*

I have just heard a preview of Brent Spiner's record and it is lovely, he has a lovely gentle voice even though the songs are a bit dated.

As you can probably tell, Data/Brent Spiner can do no wrong in my eyes. I hope and pray that one day he will come over for a convention or T.V.

Anne Rogers - Swindon, Wilts

In response to Chris Brown, n/1 17. The prefix NX denotes an experimental vessel.

Janet Quarton - Lochgillphead, Argyll

The Vulcan philosophy of 'IDIC' seems to have different meanings for different fans. The actual quote from the script is "The glory of creation is in its infinite diversity and the way our differences combine to create meaning and beauty." I interpret this to mean that we should value and accept each others differences - not try and make everyone the same. By 'accept their differences' I mean accept that they see things differently from the way I do, and have different likes and dislikes. I don't have to agree with them - I just have to accept that they have as much right to their ideas and way of life as I do to mine. In some ways 'IDIC' is an ideal and in practice it is probably difficult to live up to. Where you do you draw the line between everyone having the right to do their own thing and have their own beliefs; and people committing murder or acts of cruelty etc?

To Linda Norman - You obviously don't feel deeply enough about any of the Star Trek actors or characters to worry about people attacking or making fun of them. However many other fans do feel differently and do get upset. Why upset them needlessly - that seems an odd kind of 'fun'.

To Kathleen Glancy - Let's look at the scene you mention from Bread and Circuses. Kirk is taken to the Proconsul's quarters and left by the guards; Drusilla enters from behind a curtain.

DRUSILLA: I was told to wait for you. Provide wine, food... whatever you wish.

I am Proconsul's slave Drusilla, although for this evening... for this evening

I was told I am your slave. Command me.

Kirk is suspicious, thinking it is a trick, but Drusilla assures him that they are alone and that she never lies to one who owns her. We cut to the scene between Spock and McCoy in the cell which ends with McCoy telling Spock that he is worried about Jim too. We then cut back to the scene between Kirk and Drusilla. Kirk is sitting eating with Drusilla sitting beside him.

KIRK: (enjoying the food) Very good. Excellent.

DRUSILLA: I was concerned, I am ordered to please you.

KIRK: I've been in some strange worlds; strange customs... perhaps this is considered torture here.

DRUSILLA: (openly flirting) Torture - I do not understand. I do not wish to see you tortured in any way. (Drusilla leans forward and kisses Kirk.) At the first sign of pain you will tell me.

Kirk: You'll be the first to know.

Drusilla kisses him again and he responds.

In the next scene time has passed and Kirk is lying asleep on a couch. The Proconsul wakens him and after some other dialogue says:

PROCONSUL: Because you are a man, I gave you some last hours as a man.

KIRK: I appreciate that.

Now while I agree that the implication is there that Kirk 'slept' with Drusilla I do not believe he did. Kirk was worried about Spock and McCoy and I really can't see him 'enjoying' himself under those circumstances. He would certainly eat, and get what sleep he could (as a Starship Captain he would be used to getting some sleep whenever he could), but as I see it that is as far as it went. Whatever happened he would let the Proconsul think that Drusilla had done as instructed or she would probably have been punished.

If you prefer to believe he did sleep with her then all I can say is that whatever you may think of his morals regarding seducing women and his apparent willingness to sleep around, I have never seen Kirk force his attentions on any woman (Enemy Within doesn't count). He knew Drusilla was a slave and he would have to be very sure it was what she wanted, rather than just what she was ordered to

do. From what I saw she tried to seduce him and seemed very willing - he was the one resisting. I don't think she would fool him easily and he would give her every chance to state her true feelings, no doubt telling her he would cover for her with the Proconsul. I really do not think you have enough evidence to accuse him of 'raping' a slave.

As to the android debate - Rem in the series Logan's Run insists that he is an Android and he seem very similar to Data.

Lloyd Lewis - Abercynffig, Bridgend, Mid Glam.

To Ray Dowsett - My period of service was in THE Navy, as I believe I said: that is, not in any navy that needs a qualifying adjective such as the Royal Navy (God bless them.) etc. I actually served the whole time on tankers. I thoroughly enjoyed myself, and given the chance would do it all again.

To get a hard answer to the question that originally started this discussion I rang-up the Admiralty, now merely a Department in the MoD. After going all round the houses (perhaps while they checked on my security rating?) I was finally allowed to speak to a very well spoken gentleman who assured me that "Make it so" is an order that a Captain would use to his subordinates". So there we have it, the phrase is a real Royal Navy expression, but is it appropriate on a ship which disavows being a vessel of war?

To Jeff Martin - Konnichi wa! The most useful phrase that I've got off by heart is "Mo ichido itte kudasai", but I don't usually understand even on a second attempt. I find that if I'm not constantly practising then I lose the ability to speak faster than I can pick it up. Best regards to your wife. *[Janet: I was wondering whether you, and anyone else who is learning Japanese, knows that anyone who can receive Sky on the Astra satellite can also receive the JSTV channel. This broadcasts in Japanese every evening for expatriates. It is on 11.586.]*

To Helen White - If I remember correctly, no guarantees, check these before quoting! Asprin kills cats and humans under 12 years of age, codeine causes dental abscesses in horses and penicillin is lethal to guinea pigs. Insulin buggers something up (apart from the creature it's extracted from) but I misremember exactly. This really demonstrates the sense in testing drugs on any beast except Man!

Ref. communicators: I think that at Starfleet Academy you are taught to tapdance with your fingers nails, too fast for us poor mortals to follow.

To Christine Snow - Frontiers at Blackpool 1990 had a free creche and made life easier by a factor of shedfuls. Con organizers take note.

Much as I enjoy TNG I freely admit that they don't enthrall me the way Classic holds me spellbound. With Classic I can rewind and watch the episode over again immediately, much to my wife's annoyance.

The Dauphin was spoiled for me by the creatures, which were worthy of 60's FX at their giggling worst. I enjoyed The Royale - I've been in situations where the only available book was twaddle but I've read it anyway.

Do CIC have *all* the animated episodes available? I've got volumes 1, 2 & 3, and the way things are going I'm going to end up with 20, not 22 episodes. *[Janet: When CIC originally released the animations they only released 20 episodes. The missing ones were How Sharper than a Serpent's Tooth and Counter Clock Incident. I do not know whether they plan to release them this time.]*

Sorry everybody, but what is 'Quantum Leap'? Is it true that there's a new series of Red Dwarf under way? Why's there always fluff in your belly button in the morning? Why's Michaelangelo's Adam on the Sistine Chapel ceiling got a belly button?

Why not print an IDIC special? A hard backed compilation of all the letters received for and against Data's humanity, self-awareness, procreative ability etc. etc. Sounds like a real money spinner to me.

Don't forget folks, while we're on the letters page, that if your ideas are too long for a letter, too short or disorganised for an article you can write direct to the person that you're sparking off and possibly submit a joint, balanced article. I'm quite sure that any member of the IDIC committee would supply the address and forward the letter. *[Janet: Sheila and I will certainly forward letters - Just send us a covering note asking us to forward the letter to the person and send us the letter in a stamped envelope with the person's name on and we'll add the address.]*

Clare Solomon - Yeovil, Somerset

The Postbag has to be my favourite regular feature, particularly all the discussions on Data.

To Thomas Hicks and Fiona Cambell - On the subject of whether Data is a robot or android, my dictionary (Collins English Dictionary) defines 'android' as "a robot resembling a human being". However, there has been some uncertainty recently over this because the writer Isaac Asimov (the leading authority on fictional robots) calls his creations 'robots' whether they look like humans or not. So it is really a matter of preference although, for clarity's sake, if for no other reason, it would be simpler to follow the dictionary definition (ie if you mention an android people know it will look and probably act like a person, whereas a robot can have any appearance.) (By the way, to Gloria Fry: I love Asimov's robots too.)

On the subject of whether Data is alive and/or has a soul, surely we have so little knowledge of what it is to be alive and to have a soul that we are unfit to judge Data. I certainly disagree with Ray Dowsett that being alive depends on being "flesh and blood" - so far on our planet that may be true but who knows what life is like on other planets or what it will be like in the future?

About the policy for letters, I agree completely. "Negative and aggressive" letters are unpleasant to read, particularly criticism of actors. Also, as much as I enjoy reading the letters, I think the Postbag is definitely long enough as it is - if it was any longer the rest of the newsletter features would suffer. Because this section is so long, how about dividing it up under various headings (for instance: 'Letters about TNG', 'Letters about Original Trek', 'Discussions About Data', etc.) If it was split up like that it might seem more readable to those who complained about the section being too long. *[Janet: Since most members write on such varied subjects splitting up the postbag would be difficult and it would probably end up taking more space. Also we're not really in favour of separating Original Trek and TNG in the newsletter as they are both part of Gene's Star Trek universe.]*

In n/1 16 I loved Ann Peters' 'Compassion in Starfleet's Android Officer' article. Each point was clearly described and argued leading to a conclusion which made a lot of sense. Whether Data has compassion is a subject I had not considered before but, if Ann's conclusion is accepted, then a lot of Data's behaviour makes far more sense (especially his attitude to other life-forms).

In n/1 17 I particularly enjoyed 'What Is Life?', which gave me a lot to think about, and the Sea Trek report.

David Jon Thorne - Bath, Avon

I have made a list of season 3 and 4 episodes and rated them accordingly: poor 1 point, excellent 5 points. I was quite surprised to see that the total point score for each season was so close, with fourth season just winning. I found no poor episodes in either season. *[Janet: David's favourite 3rd season episode is The Offspring and his favourite 4th season ones are Family, Clues, First Contact and The Drumhead. Sorry we didn't have room to reprint your list, David.]*

My only main criticism is the return of Denise Crosby. Why? What is the logic behind this? The script describes the character she played as 'a Human female with striking resemblances to Tasha Yar' - the mind boggles! It, of course, all may become perfectly logical in part two. I would like to hear IDIC's view on this. *[Janet: we're assuming you mean other IDIC members' views.]*

Re. n/1 17. To Ann Peters - Yes, Ann, First Contact made an impression on me also. To see things turned-around, as it were. A truly memorable piece of Science Fiction.

Ewan Chalmers - New Elgin, Morayshire

First off, can I say that I think that IDIC is brilliant! There seems to be the right mix of comments regarding Classic/TNG, although I'm glad to see that the 'petty bickering' between proponents of either one has been stopped.

I think that TNG seems to be getting better and better. I thought that the 1st season was excellent but it seemed to be lacking just a little bit extra to make it *really* excellent. Now after watching the last couple of 2nd season episodes (Time Square and Icarus Factor) to my mind there is no comparison with the earliest 1st season episodes. Characters have grown in stature I feel because we have been told about them, for example Riker's parental problems and Worf's to name just two.

Brent Spiner aka Data puts so much effort into his acting that it's a joy to watch. The little smiles or looks are so natural that they just make the part!

To Steve Davies - re Federation/Klingon War in STVI - I hope you're right!

Sarah Jenkin - Gillingham, Kent

Do you know if there any initiation traditions in Starfleet (i.e. A new cadet/officer has to take a bath in cold le-matya food or something silly like that? *[Janet: I hope not for their sake.]*

Jenny Turner - Billesley, Birmingham

I have recently started reading TNG books and I find that they have in most cases better storylines than the original Star Trek books. I don't know if anyone else feels the same way about this. I have so far read Contamination (excellent), Boogeymen! (very good), A Rock & A Hard Place (my favourite so far) and The Eyes of the Beholders. Once I start reading I can't put them down. I have recently bought Captain's Honour, Ghost Ship, Masks, Doomsday World, Vendetta and Metamorphosis. I hope these are as good as the others. I still want to get 2 more, A Call to Darkness and The Children of Hamelin. I'm really hooked on TNG. I never ever thought I would be, I HATED it at first!

Margaret Connor - Muirend, Glasgow

To Elena Bond - I quite agree with your sentiments re Jonathan Frakes, but are you trying to give the poor man heart failure. After the film 'Misery' I didn't think anyone still said they were a No. 1 fan. As to a British Fan Club for him I have only one answer, YES, YES, YES!!! Do you need any help?

Lesley Hatch - Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands

To Simon Goodall - I imagine that there must be something really fundamentally wrong with Geordi's optic nerves that even the advanced medical science is unable to deal with. Maybe they're incomplete, or maybe they haven't been able to develop a form of transplant surgery to deal with whatever his problem is. It would be a difficult job to do, I think, even with the sophisticated techniques they have.

To Liz Caldwell - I think Data would recognise an emotion if he experienced it. The problem would be trying to identify what particular emotion he had felt. The only way he could know is by (a) noting the expressions on others' faces when they experienced emotion and trying to compare them with his own if he has one and (b) getting Deanna to sense what he's feeling and tell him. He would then record this information and have it for future reference.

Rev. Ambrose - Hinkley, Leic.

Having just watched *City on the Edge of Forever* again, I would like to reply to Christine Snow's article. She says that because of Edith's curiosity "about the three unusual men", she absentmindedly crosses the road thus getting killed, so if they hadn't been there she wouldn't have got run down. Therefore our heroes had to be a part of history for these facts to occur.

I hear what you say Christine; if Edith hadn't gone to the movies with Jim she would be alive anyway, but consider this - what if she just got killed walking home from the mission? An ordinary traffic accident. Bones arriving when he did saved her from this fate. I don't believe they were part of the continuum. Bones accidentally changed history so the others had to go back to rectify it. Bones went back in their time, the 23rd century; if he hadn't gone back, the pages of time would be unchanged - America being the first to get the bomb, Edith getting killed on the way home from the mission.????

As for the wino getting killed, I do not believe this was an important incident. I don't think the disappearance of a wino would have much effect on the time continuum. A more important person, yes, like a senator, but not an ordinary 'bum'.

Anne Devrell - Warrimoo, N.S.W., Australia

In Kathleen Glancy's excellent review of *Dreadstar* No. 64 in n/l 17, Kathleen was puzzled by a reference to Benedyct being the ship's name. According to Data 99 the ship is called the Benedyct [Arnold] (as in Richard).

Simon Trick - Leyton, London

Nicholas Meyer seems a good choice for the director of ST VI. He showed a good deal of sensitivity in his treatment of the characters in ST II and proved very able in directing the action scenes. Had the script been a touch sharper in its treatment of the main characters it would have been near perfect. I should really like to see a touch more tension between the leading players. I've enjoyed most of the ST movies, but there's a tendency to make the characters too "chummy". Sure, they've developed a stronger friendship as the years have gone by, but there's been a tendency to over-sentimentalise - mainly in STV. I hope that we may see the friends in a situation where they are in direct confrontation, but after severe trials pull through with a deepened respect for each other. This was one of the strengths of the TV series: *Arena*, *The Menagerie*, *Obsession*, *Conscience of the King*, *Balance of Terror* and *The Tholian Web* are prime examples where such situations arise. Allied to this, a fully functional bridge with an efficient crew and Captain Kirk being tough with his officers where necessary would be an asset to the movie. Oh well, enough of my views about the film; I'm looking forward to seeing other IDIC members' views on what they'd like to see.

To Christine Snow - I agree with you on two points: 1) that Mother Teresa does "walk with God" and does not merely reflect humanity's moral and spiritual advancement. 2) One should always re-read one's own letter to re-draft it: I wish I had! Due to your insightful comment, I can see that I did not adequately make the connection between humanity's advancement and the Messengers of God ("Great Teachers" as I previously called them) such as Krishna, Moses, Christ, Muhammed and Bahoullah. It is They, I believe, who bring the Teachings that enable humanity to advance: some people follow their Teachings directly, while others may be influenced without recognising the source. As to your point on star dates: I'm confused, I never understood how they worked. Perhaps someone can explain them to me. However, the problem with the idea of 7 years having passed from *Amok Time* to *All Our Yesterdays*, is that both episodes were made during the '5 year mission'. I think your point about Spock being out of telepathic touch with self-controlled Vulcans is more accurate.

To Ann Peters - re. the biochemical machines. No one could deny the fact that biochemistry is the method for the physical functioning of the body. But people are more than the sum of physiological processes - attributes such as love, compassion, mercy and justice, while needing biochemistry to allow their physical

...pression, surely do not originate in biochemistry. Star Trek has always been about exploring undiscovered frontiers - the soul is certainly one of them.

Karl M John - Llanfrechfa, Gwent

I see you would like comments on Make It So by IDIC members so here are mine on No. 3 -

It is well presented. The fiction is a very high standard and the ideas are often quite original. The cartoons are very original and funny - I would like to see more of them.

I would prefer a separate zine for Kirk et al meet Picard et al. I would also prefer stories based on season 3 to be withheld until the relevant episode has been seen here. (I like to see TNG in season order and don't want to know what happens beforehand.) *(Sheila - we do try not to print stories based on episodes that have not been seen yet, but because we've seen them all to the end of the fourth season, it's easy to forget that Story X hasn't been shown by the BBC yet.)*

Lastly - keep on producing Make It So!

Laurie Haynes - DeRidder, Louisiana

Here's a tip for British writers working with American characters. Try not to put British expressions in their mouths - it doesn't ring true. For instance, don't have them call their mothers 'Mum' or 'Mummy'. It's 'Mom', 'Mommy' or even 'Mamma' for kids, and usually 'Mom' or 'Mother' or even occasionally 'Ma' for grown ups. The words 'shall' and 'shan't' are all but obsolete in American English. 'Must' is only used when stressing something. Otherwise it's 'have to' or 'have got to'. Oh, and no 'bloke', 'chap' or even 'lads'.

I know American writers probably make the same mistakes with British characters - especially when spelling Scotty's burr. I've been reading it in SciTpress with great interest, and paying close attention. We'll see if I can get it right next time.

In the last issue of IDIC, there was great debate over whether Data could father a child. One person came up with the proper reason why he cannot genetically father a child - he has no genetic material to pass on. However, he did become a father in the third season episode The Offspring (directed by Jonathan Frakes). He built himself an adolescent child (who decided she wanted to be female) and used bits of himself in the construction. I'm not going to spoil it for you folks who haven't seen it yet. That's all I'm going to tell you about it!

Star Trek VI is set for a December 1991 U.S. release. I can hardly wait. The news thus far - Spock gets married, Sulu is Captain of the Excelsior. Rumour has it that Kirk gets kidnapped. The Official Fan Club Magazine showed photos of an ice planet set of a Klingon prison and the director mentioned a court room scene. My interpretation - Kirk is kidnapped and put on trial and sentenced to the ice planet. We'll see.

I enjoyed Helen's report on the Sea Trek cruise. I went on the cruise two years ago and had a blast. It's well worth the money for a once in a lifetime experience. We went to the Bahamas and had the same people aboard. Frakes and Dorn were supposed to have gone, but couldn't make it. As much fun as it was, I don't believe I would go again unless Shatner or Nimoy went.

Last, but hardly the least. With Issue 5, LoneStar Trek will be all Classic Trek. We're coming out with a second zine, tentatively titled The Galaxian, which will be all TNG. Look for it in early 1992. It, too, will focus on hurt-comfort and action-adventure. It will have the same high quality format and combination of great art and great stories. We're now accepting submissions for both zines. Send them to me at the address in the zine listings. LST 4 is in the works and due out in September 1991.

Linda Wood - Glasgow

To Chris Brown - for a comprehensive Vulcan vocabulary, please see my article in IDIC Newsletter No. 13. All the words quoted are spoken in either the Classic Series, the movies, or written by Gene Roddenberry in his TMP novel. I deliberately avoided included fan-invented words, as these are not authentic Vulcan.

Perhaps the NX on the Excelsior means 'Not eXpected to go'!

To Gloria Fry - congrats on your excellent article re Scottish names in Trek - I'm sure many folk are thinking 'Drat - why didn't I think of that?'

I, too, have long considered Robert Burns to be the original promulgator of IDIC and, for those who have a certain compassion for the Vulcan race, and particularly for a Very Special Vulcan, the following little refrain, slightly altering the original, might prove to be the logical song to sing at the next LN con. Sung to the tune of A Gordon for Me, it goes something like this -

"A Vulcan for me, a Vulcan for me,
If you're no' a Vulcan, ye're nae guid tae me!
The Klingons are braw, the Romulans an' a',
But a tall, handsome Vulcan's the pride of them a'!"

To Kari M John - how's this for a paradox - would you still consider Data 'alive' if he was *not* played by a Human actor? I disagree that a plant does not feel - I give you as an example the Venus Fly Trap, or the tropical plant (I can't remember its name) that shrivels or closes its leaves when touched, and recordings made of plants reacting, and even crying out, when pain is experimentally inflicted on them.

Planet Earth itself can now be seen as a living organism and we, the infestation, are quickly stifling and killing it by air pollution and by extermination of species. Leonard Nimoy's premise that killing off one genus unknowingly, be it whales, ants, flies or lions, will irredeemably alter the ecological balance of the whole planet and doom it, and humanity, to death, is quite accurate.

To the Editor - the title 'The Most Unkindest Cut' is a grammatical howler! Just as you cannot have a double negative, you cannot have a double superlative either! If it is a quote, then it's still disgraceful English and should not be repeated in print. I'm sure that teachers have enough trouble teaching the English language without youngsters seeing errors like this in these august pages. If it is seen in print, it will be thought to be good grammar, which it more certainly is not! It *should* read 'The Unkindest Cut of All' or just 'The Unkindest Cut'.

[Ed - 'The Most Unkindest Cut' is a quotation. Possibly we should have been pedantic and put quotation marks around it, but we did think that it would be recognised as a quote, even if people didn't recognise the source - it's in several books of 'well-known' quotations. In fact, it's from Shakespeare; from Julius Caesar, a play that many children 'do' during their school career. Act III, scene ii, from Mark Anthony's eulogy over Caesar's body, which he used to inflame the mob. To paraphrase -

"Through this (rent in the cloak) the well-beloved Brutus stabbed...
This was the most unkindest cut of all;
For when the noble Caesar saw him stab,
Ingratitude, more strong than traitors' arms,
Quite vanquished him..."

Considering what people think about the BBC's cuts, we felt it was a very appropriate quote.]

Pam Baddeley - Farnborough

I hope the Postbag will not be dramatically curtailed. For me, the Postbag is the heart of the newsletter, my favourite part and the part I read first. I would be sorry to see it truncated.

Additionally, I hope your comments about excluding negative views doesn't mean that we are excluded from pointing out the occasional plot weakness or whatever. I like ST:TNG very much, but that doesn't prevent me from seeing certain flaws in it - just as I was a dyed-in-the-wool Classic Trek fan from the beginning but always saw the places where it fell down or could have been improved. I don't think that being a fan should mean you have carte blanche to tear something to shreds but neither should it mean you have to keep quiet and not say anything derogatory - obviously you keep such comments polite, reasoned and where possible constructive (ie suggesting ways of improvement). In summary, I don't see anything wrong with reasoned analysis of both pluses and minuses and I hope we're not excluded from doing both in the N/L. *[Ed - No, we have no objection to reasoned analyses such as you mention. What we don't want is a blanket 'I don't like...' aimed at slamming an actor or either series.]*

On to the N/L 16 Postbag. *[Ed - this letter came in too late for inclusion in N/L 17]* Quite a contrast in the views of Lesley Hatch and Thomas Hicks. Although 'android' usually denotes an artificial human of organic substance, it has sometimes been applied to manlike machines, and 'robot' and 'android' tend to be used interchangeably by Philip K Dick. The word itself means 'man-like' and dates back to 1727!

To Lisa Dearnley-Davison - don't worry, some of us ancient beings (I was 12 when ST began in the UK) also appreciate TNG. I don't compare it with the original series - it's equal but different and I enjoy it on its own terms though I wish some of the plots were stronger. I'm fond of the characters; I especially enjoy the contrast between Picard and Kirk.

Further to Jeff Martin's comments - perhaps I was a little unclear in my previous letter. When I said that TNG showed Data in a way that implied he experienced emotions, I was talking about it as a TV show; ie if the production shows us a character behaving in a certain way with various expressions and other signs consistent with experiencing emotion, we, the audience, are meant to infer that the character actually feels the appropriate emotion.

Yes, it's not self evident that Data feels emotion, but in a way this is the old chestnut about how can anyone assume that everyone around them is a feeling, sentient being rather than an emotionless automaton? On an intellectual level, it's a puzzle of the same ilk as the one about the universe only existing while an individual is alive to observe it and will cease to exist when that individual dies, and the existentialist argument that everything is an illusion. On an every day practical level, you have to assume that the universe is real and that other people are sentient beings like yourself. On that basis, we are shown Data as an emotional being, and the logical assumption is that we're meant to accept that he is feeling something. Otherwise, it's dramatically dishonest.

To Gloma Fry - the US rating system differs from the BBC system but I can't recall the details.

Re the creation of original characters in ST fiction - I haven't read Dwellers in the Crucible, but will explain how I dealt with that in the four books I wrote for ScoTpress a few years back. I tried (and mostly succeeded, I think) in maintaining the importance of the main ST characters but my motive in writing these books was to explore certain themes in a ST context. For example, in Fall of Night, I dealt with the conflict between Kirk's duty to the prime directive and his desire not to betray the friendship of an alien who helps him, when adhering to the prime directive will require that he do just that. The other interest for me was in seeing how my characters would interact with the ST characters.

To Russell Witheyman - I think Whoopi Goldberg is OK most of the time, though I couldn't really believe her scene with Riker in The Dauphin (which, incidentally, should be the feminine form, Dauphine - perhaps the French among us can confirm that?)

From N/L 17 -

To Simon Goodall - I can't recall where I read it but the warp speeds used in TNG are supposed to be calculated in a different way to the original series and are much faster. I think the 'pulse' that's seen is just a convention that grew from Star Wars that you have to have that sort of special effect to signify the jump to light speed.

Following Lesley Hatch's comment on Edward Woo's letter - I think he was referring to the original idea that Wesley was to be a girl (so no confusion in names).

Hear, hear to Kathleen Glancy's remarks re Bread and Circuses. He shows no respect for the slave as an individual with feelings. I don't have a downer on Kirk; I like some aspects of his character but the chauvinistic attitude to women was not one of them.

To comment on Helen White's point on being interviewed; it seems to be general press practice when dealing with anyone who likes any SF programme. I was at a Dr. Who con many years ago and a reporter from local BBC radio started interviewing some friends and me. He then said, "It's no good. You're too normal. Can't you put me onto some of the loony ones?" I'm afraid we're news only if we fit the stereotype.

Re Chris Brown's comment on recreating Yar from her transporter pattern. I think this would be a hologram rather than the actual personality; the living, feeling person would be absent.

Edward Woo - those first season ops/con seats leaned further back, as you say. In fact, as someone with long standing back trouble, they immediately struck me as a surefire way of putting someone's back out. I couldn't have sat in them for two minutes!

Richard Fuller - I agree with you, up to a point, about negative emotions but anger doesn't always have to be negative or involve hitting out. It can be channelled constructively, eg as determination to fight an injustice. I was raised as I think a lot of women are - never to raise my voice, let alone lose my temper. Anger can be turned inward if there's no positive outlet and ends up as depression. I don't think it's any coincidence that depression is more prevalent among women. These days I try to communicate that there is a problem, assertively and without browbeating the other person.

Roger Buck - I checked Ellison's script of City on the Edge of Forever in 'Six Science Fiction Plays' edited by Roger Elwood. There's no trace of the "Let me help" line, so you're right about Gene Roddenberry's authorship.

Leaving the Postbag, I found Helen White's UFP 91 reports interesting, especially the comments by Diane Duane and Peter Morwood on interference from the Trek 'front office'. This is borne out by a letter published in Data Entries 3 from Diane Carey, author of Ghost Ship, the first TNG novel.

In this, she explains how she based the characters on the Writers' Guide (not having debuted), such as Riker being prejudiced against Data. By the time the book was finished, half the first season had been screened and creative disputes had arisen in the production side. As a result, characters remained unchanged - eg Data had originally been created by mysterious aliens. This caused inconsistencies between the book and the show, with no time to rewrite, given the 6 month lead time required for publication.

She says the Trek office was and is unhelpful in giving information to novelists to help them avoid such inconsistencies, but has now begun censoring the material. No character or relationship development is allowed and, after publication of Ghost Ship, anonymous hack writers have been changing and offending passages and rewriting them in ways that do not fit the author's style. As I say, this has been published as a public statement.

Finally, does anyone know when CIC will catch up? Thanks to various problems, including BT drilling through my power cable, I've missed The Icarus Factor and Time Squared.

Barbara Ellams - London

To Lloyd Lewis - Ancient Roman Gladiator found in Arctic ice by American oilman - thawed in Europe late 20th century. I think this is the story you are referring to in N/L 17, it is called The Far Arena by Richard Ben Sapir. It was published by Dell in '79 in the USA - ISBN No. 0 440 12671 1. There was an English edition but I can't remember who did it; someone acquired my copy and I managed to get a replacement when in the US in '86 in a second hand store. The lady checked for me and at that time it was out of print. If you are going to Midcon and haven't found a copy by then, I'll bring mine along. It really is a terrific story. (My address is in the small ads.)

Allison Blandford - London

I would like to stick up for William Shatner. People slag him off as if he's worthless junk all because he wears a toupee and has put on some weight since the Star Trek series. How can people treat other people who brought us great enjoyment though the years so badly?

Mr. Shatner is some actor as well as a great novelist. People won't give him a chance; they always stereotype him. He doesn't deserve that. So give him a break and don't insult him. (By the way, has anyone found a fan club for Bill Shatner yet? Because I'm eager to join it!)

In one of the previous newsletters, someone said Spock should be a higher rank than Kirk because he's far more intelligent. Well, that's absurd. Kirk started from scratch, from Ensign right up to Admiral - he worked hard to get where he is today and he deserves every bit of it.

I disagree with Spock every time, particularly in the episode called Wolf in the Fold. He claims that London was the *most* popular city on Old Earth. What did he mean, was? It still is to my standards, though non-Londoners would disagree completely.

Finally, one thing - well, two, actually - that has troubled me. What does T.J. stand for in T.J. Hooker? And in the Star Trek episode Miri, two of Bill Shatner's daughters appear; Leslie and Lisabeth. Lisabeth is in one of the final scenes being carried by her father, but which one was Leslie?

Clare Holden - London

To Edward Woo - I also like Deanna Troi, and would very much like to see her on more away missions, rather than having a nap on the 'comfy' bridge. I agree she does little more than sit and look sophisticated on the bridge.

To Elena Bond - a reply from Mr. Frakes! Only a touch of envy from many IDIC members, I'm sure? (I am a very deep shade of green.) I also like Riker so I was wondering how you contacted him? And do you prefer the beard? I certainly do. [Ed: You can write to any of the actors, from either series. Just address your letter to them at the Star Trek Office, 5555 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90038, U.S.A. However, remember that they get a lot of mail and may not have the time to reply. It would be courteous to enclose an address label and an IRC.]

Elena Bond - London

I have just finished reading Contamination and would like to share how much I enjoyed this book. Jon Vornholt is one of my favourite TNG authors and I've always enjoyed what he writes.

Of his own characters in the book I must say how much I enjoyed the strange Kwalrak. She's a scream and a real delight; imagining her strange appearance and her interaction with Riker I could not stop laughing. Kwalrak is the First Officer of a strange alien vessel and she's very much like a female version of Riker (well, I'm not too sure about her in the looks department although we are told she is definitely beautiful for a Kree!!) All those readers who like strong female characters ought to check out this book as I'm sure they would like Kwalrak! I came away from reading this book with a strong wish that the author had made more of the relationship between Riker and Kwalrak (those two are definitely made for each other) instead of treating us yet again to the obligatory Riker/Troi relationship which I much prefer to see as a friendship now (leaving Riker free to become romantically involved with stronger female characters who are more suited to his personality.)

In case Jon Vornholt reads this, I for one would like to see more of Kwalrak in the future, including her becoming romantically involved with Riker. I even intend to write my own story along those lines - eventually. But I can quite understand Mr. Vornholt's reluctance to make more of the Kwalrak/Riker relationship after fans over-reacted to his portrayal of Captain Picard in Masks (which I find rather unfair and ridiculous). I enjoyed Masks and must be one of the few people to like the way he portrayed Picard. Jean-Luc is, after all, a man and ought at least occasionally to be shown behaving as such and enjoying a romantic encounter with a woman. He ought to be allowed to let his hair down without its leading to an outcry against the author who writes this.

Liz Caldwell - Penrhyndeudraeth, Gwynedd, Wales

After reading Russell Witheyman's letter in the last N/L I felt I had to say something in defence of The Royale.

In my opinion, this is one of the very best and most original episodes in the series. The revolving door in total blackness at the beginning reminds me of something out of The Twilight Zone - in fact the whole episode has a wonderfully surreal feeling about it. I love the passages from the book that we keep seeing being acted out - the dialogue and especially the music is straight out of an old TV series or movie.

Russell did admit he liked the humour in the episode and mentioned the bit with Worf and room service, but I think that it is Data who definitely steals the show. His line "Baby needs new shoes" with the accompanying click of his fingers and the look he gives Riker is one of the best moments in the whole series.

The Royale delights me every time I watch it and although I have seen it many times I continue to marvel at such an original and clever idea for an episode.

Christine Snow - Worthing, West Sussex

Hi, happy 25th anniversary to everyone.

To Chris Brown - concerning Saavik's uniform in ST II. Perhaps she was reissued with the command undershirt because she was to act as Captain in her KM test, but it was considered unnecessary to reissue other items of uniform as these are less noticeable. Starfleet does not have unlimited resources. That's why they do refits rather than build new ships.

The boots, considering the variety of uniform allowed, can be whatever is comfortable. I think IDIC with restraint is the order of the day.

To Roger Buck - I agree with you about *true* love. Perhaps you already know that it was clearly written about in these terms about 1900 years ago in 1

Corinthians chapter 13 and summed up in John 15:12 - "Love each other as I have loved you." It goes on to say, "Greater love hath no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends".

To Nina Lynch - Maria McGiver was a victim of that endearing native of Ceti Alpha V, prior to ST II, but I don't know about the actress.

To Helen White - I loved your con reports, especially Sea Trek. It sounds wonderful (and hot) . I hope you do manage to go in 1993. I'm looking forward to your writeup!

To Gloria Fry - On Tribbian V a recent archaeological dig has discovered a metal monolith with musical hieroglyphs identical to the language on Miramanee's planet. They tell of the legend of the Tribbles. On their home planet, third from their star and with an oversize natural satellite, they were known originally as Weehaggis. They were taken, by bright lights that tingled, from their misty, mountainous homeland, where the flowers were small and white and the wind blew mournfully, to Tribbian V. It was thought that the tingly bright lights were the transporter beams of the Preservers, who mistook the gentle tribbling sounds of the Weehaggis as the call sign for "Beam me up, I'm Scottish". It has since been realised that it actually means "Thank goodness you're not a Klingon". This has led to speculation that Klingons landed on Sol III and may have been the widely reported "wildmen of the mountains" referred to in many Scottish folk tales.

Eddie Yau, Hove, East Sussex

Hi, all! I don't know how many of you got up (or down) to UFP, but I hope it was really good. I didn't get to go (sniff, sniff!) but I hope those of you who went managed to see an excellent 7-odd minute computer-animated Star Trek movie which I sent Janet to be shown at the con. Watch out for a TNG version!

To Steve Davis - you may have your wish partially granted in ST VI. I have been informed that there will be the big Klingon battle cruisers as well as the Birds of Prey! Also David Warner will be playing a Klingon!

Star Trek VII? I think that if it is made, it will be starring the cast of TNG. Hmm... "Star Trek VII: The Next Generation - The Motion Picture"???

To Simon Goodall - the Galaxy Class Enterprise doesn't go at the same warp speed as the original Enterprise - she's faster. The numbers may be the same, but the end speed is different. Enterprise-D has "ultrawarp" (supposedly better than transwarp) capabilities, though this is not official canon (ie Paramount don't know themselves!)

To Chris Brown - as NCC stands for Naval Construction Code, NX could stand for Naval experiment, as she had the experimental transwarp drive in her.

As to your Tasha Yar theory - not very likely, I am afraid. Except as a hologram, there is no physical matter or energy left of her. Her pattern in the transporter computers is just a load of binary 1s and 0s.

To Christine Snow - about your Tasha Yar ideas -

- a) Nope, she'd be an android.
- b) Too late, she's dead.
- c) Could work, but Pulaski was still alive. Tasha's dead.
- d) Too late, there's nothing left of her. She's dead.
- e) Could work, but that's altering history and nobody would have to die from anything except for natural causes. It would be a case of "Oh, Guinan's just been killed. Let's go back to the Guardian of Forever and save her."
- f) Altering history again. Not allowed.
- g) AAARRRRGGGGGHHHHHH!!!!!! No, no, no, no, NO!
- h) Dallas lives on in TNG!

To Edward Woo - I agree with you that the Enterprise-A would handle and feel

differently from the original TV series. However, the original ship had way too much plastic holding her together for my liking. Enterprise-D is too comfortable for my liking. All it is missing are the in-flight movies, 10 tennis courts and the stewards/stewardesses, but they are probably on board somewhere. My order of preference is -

- No. 6 - Enterprise-D
- No. 5 - Enterprise-C
- No. 4 - Enterprise (original TV version)
- No. 3 - Enterprise (refitted original TV series)
- No. 2 - Enterprise-B (Excelsior class)
- No. 1 - Enterprise-A

I think Deanna Troi is the most underused character on TNG. I recall seeing her in a whole episode for one scene only, and she didn't say a word!

A question to everyone. Who reckons that Dr. Pulaski is the better Doctor than Dr. Crusher? I support Pulaski myself, she seems to be the more "well known" and "respected" one.

Finally, how come 99.9% of aliens breathe near normal Earth atmosphere, but just look different? One possible answer - it's cheaper on the budget!

Kirstie Jordan - Pilsley, Derbyshire

I would like to say that although I am primarily a TNG fan, I also enjoy watching the films and and I can remember some of the reruns of the original series shown on TV a few years ago.

To Sue Embury - so you feel that once is enough for TNG? Well, I disagree! I would happily watch some episodes again and again! One of my favourites so far has to be The Dauphin which I had to watch again (I video them due to the time slot) because I missed so much laughing the first time! The scene on the bridge where Wes is asking Worf for help with his introduction to Salia had me in stitches! I still don't know whose facial expressions was the funnier - Wes's or Worf's! And the Ten Forward scene with Wes, Riker and Guinan is almost as good!

Measure of a Man is also a favourite, as is The Schizoid Man. I'm not going to get involved in the "is Data alive?" debate except to say that whether he is alive or not, he's good!

To Sheila Clark - I agree wholeheartedly with your comments about Wil Wheaton (N/L 16), and I think that The Dauphin in some way goes towards showing what a good actor he is. Assuming that the "success so young" and the meeting with President Bush (!) doesn't go to his head he could possibly be a major star of the future.

By the way, am I totally insane or does anyone else think that Wil Wheaton looks like a very, very young William Shatner?

Moving on to the subject of Wil's character Wesley, a couple of funny thoughts struck me recently concerning his grey "uniform". As it appears to be an all-in-one outfit which fastens up the back, who zips Wes into it and out of it every day? And doesn't it make going to the bathroom awkward?

To Russell Witheyman - how can Whoopi Goldberg overact as Guinan when Guinan is one of the most laid back characters in TNG? I am rather worried though that her main function seems to be as a futuristic Claire Raynor, which I always thought was Counselor Troi's job! [Ed - See the report of Richard Arnold's talks at Silvercon] I think Whoopi plays the part brilliantly!

John Stevenson - East Kilbride

To Helen White - I never said that Trek was fantasy. I said that we were dealing with a fantasy world. As Star Trek is a creation from somebody's mind and

not set on today's world, the creator is fantasising as to what the world of the future will be like - therefore, a fantasy world. I would also call science fiction a specialised branch of fantasy as it is all speculation. Now let's deal with your other point. I didn't mention brain/nerve cells but I'll deal with that too. If a nerve is damaged (killing nerve cells) it is possible for the nerve to be made operative again through specialist surgery (I consulted a doctor on this). As Trek is well in the future I see no reason why we cannot assume that medical research will progress to such an extent that other nerves can be repaired.

Incidentally, I'm sure that a few hundred years ago mankind didn't think he would one day be able to fly, let alone go to the moon. Medical research is making great strides today because the researchers don't close their minds to future developments. Don't forget, in the future brain transplants may be possible. Heart transplants, now reasonably commonplace, were once thought to be impossible. Helen, I dare say you'll reply to this. Personal opinions differ and I enjoy a good argument.

Jeff Martin - Himeji, Hyogo, Japan

Sue Embury laments the lack of "fight scenes and simplistic shoot-out resolutions" in TNG. I have found this to be one aspect of the show that is more appealing than Kirk's chuck-the-Prime-Directive think-about-the-consequences-later attitude towards developing interstellar relations.

Granted, the shoot-em-ups might be more titillating, but they're not intellectually satisfying. It's obvious the Federation couldn't last with commanders who went off the deep end playing hunches. Kirk's style is more in tune with adolescent fantasies of striking out at one's enemies to eliminate problems, while Picard's is a much more mature and thoughtful approach to solving problems.

Gloria Fry writes that while she enjoyed Margaret Wander Bonano's *Dwellers in the Crucible*, she was disappointed in the way the author (and other writers she doesn't mention by name) "relegated (the main characters) to very minor roles in the story". Though I haven't read the book in question, I have read similar novels and I find it refreshing and of more interest to read about new characters in the Trek universe, as I believe most of the major themes related to the big three have been played out. How many more times can anyone stand to read Kirk's alone-at-the-top angst, McCoy and Spock's discovery that they really do care for one another, or Spock's coming to terms with his humanity? [*Janet: For ever!!! - especially Kirk*]

Kathleen Glancy opened a real can of worms in attempting to address the nature and role of history. In her discussion on the personifications of Good and Evil in *The Savage Curtain*, she argues that the episode writers did a historical injustice to both Abraham Lincoln and Genghis Khan. To a point I can understand her argument, since the characters were selected to fit preconceived 20th century notions of Good and Evil. In such a case, it's unlikely that we'll see a well-developed presentation of these figures.

What really seems to have annoyed Kathleen is a perceived unfairness on the part of the writers towards Genghis Khan. She rightly points out that as a human being, he wasn't of course entirely evil and actually improved the lives of many of those under him.

The problem is that history is not *objective* truth, but truth as it is agreed upon by historians. Each generation rewrites history to serve its own moral, political and economic agenda, and there is absolutely no hope that we can get at a historical figure in some pristine condition before his legacy was written and rewritten by generations of historians.

Kathleen's argument that we shouldn't judge people out of the context of their own time sounds like a sensible and fair point, but taken to its logical extreme could lead to the rationalisation or justification of just about any type of behaviour. For example -

"He was dedicated to the arts, cared greatly for his lover, and had a great fondness for pets. He unified a splintered country and brought it back from ruin. He proved himself an able and capable leader and a great military tactician. The war he helped start killed a lot of people, but other countries of the period were no more responsible in helping prevent wars and often actively encouraged them. Besides, the war put an end to the slow bleeding to death of his country's economy by former enemies. Hitler hated the Jews, but so did the Russians, the Poles, the French and damn near everyone else."

See my point? Who knows, 500 years from now they might be writing that kind of history of Hitler. Distance in time makes historians more "objective" and less likely to be swept up in the political and moral questions of their studies.

I can't agree with Russell Witheyman that Whoopi overacts in TNG. I think she does an excellent job portraying a very low-key character and if anything I think she underacts. I'd be interested in knowing in which particular scenes Russell thinks she overacts. The only possibilities I can imagine are those in Yesterday's Enterprise.

On the subject of the holodeck, which many members commented on last N/L, I must say I agree with most of the correspondents' objections. Outside of the technical inconsistencies enumerated in these pages, my main complaint with the holodeck is that I find it difficult to relate to fictional characters in a twice removed fictional setting. It's a useful gimmick to understand the characters better by catching glimpses of their fantasy worlds, but I really don't want to see them for an extended period of time.

Lastly, who is Guy Vardaman and why are IDIC members so concerned with his career? *[Ed - Guy is an extra in TNG and also Richard Arnold's assistant. He has been to several U.K. cons, where he has been very popular.]*

Nicole Comtet - Boussy St Antoine, France

I saw Blood Oath in its English version, and admired the remarkable performance of George Takei as Admiral Takahashi. It is a beautiful, dramatic film which reminded me of the post-war trials of Nazi war criminals which we had in France (and other countries as well). We've also had the chance to see Leonard Nimoy on Channel VI as Paris in Mission Impossible.

I found the book and zine reviews most useful, though it seems that I have already read most of the zines mentioned this time. I was amazed to see how much the BBC has cut out of the episodes, compared to the CIC videos. It seems that you have missed a lot on TV!

One article I particularly enjoyed is The Scottish Connection by Gloria Fry. Very funny. Gloria certainly does not lack humour and imagination. I particularly liked her connection of the Gorn with Nessie and the tribbles with the haggis! Even taken with a pinch of salt, and in spite of Robert Burns' blessing, it is a bit (a wee bit) far-fetched, don't you think?

As Kari M John's article mentions my name, I am bound to reply that I am not at all convinced by her arguments about creation and life. I don't know what J Comben's and R Dowsett's reactions will be to the points she has raised, but to me, if something is created, it doesn't necessarily follow that it is alive. For instance, a couturier creates a dress, painters and sculptors create artworks, etc - but you cannot say their creations are alive. They create, but they cannot give life - I think that a creation, to be alive, depends not on the fact that it is a creation, but on *who* is the creator. Of course, we know that nowadays more and more scientists have come to the conclusion that the birth of the Universe, and the origins of life, did not just happen by chance or as the result of long evolution. There seems to be a consensus in the scientific world about a will, a power at the origins of the "creation". Let me refer Kari to the summer's bestseller over here - "Dieu et la Science" (God and Science) which deals with that point in view of the scientific discoveries of the last three years.

Provided that we agree that a transcendent being, a power - God as he is generally called - has created life, isn't it presumptuous to conclude that man or any other creature can also create life, like God? In my opinion, Kari's argument that Data is alive because it is a creation does not stand. Data is an android, a perfect, sophisticated imitation of a man, but that is all. Data is not a creation of God but of a man, Noonian Soong; therefore Data is a machine and has the life of a machine - no more.

I am sure that the Data fans will disagree and will rightly stick to their opinion. That is the privilege of being a Star Trek fan, of being able to express one's opinions and allow others to contradict them. It makes for a very interesting and lively discussion, so long as people accept that others have different opinions. This also proves, once again, that Star Trek is everything but children's stuff (as I heard over here not so long ago).

I notice you have an ad for the new club Outpost. I am already a member and can only say that we have already had much fun with the welcome packet, the newsletter and the sharing of opinions. I warmly recommend this club to all faithful fans of Classic Trek... and I have discovered that Outpost is my 8th fan club! I never imagined, five years ago when I discovered Star Trek, that I would become so much involved in the Trek world and fandom!

Janice White - Cambridge

To Fiona Campbell - I agree with you about Measure of a Man. Data's shape influences how we see him more than we like to admit. And yes, Kari M John and Ann Peters, I also approve of his "attractive proportions"!

To Liz Caldwell - re The Most Toys. Data does too have feelings. They're the only thing he lies about. The moment he says "I am only an android" you know he's lying. Dr. Crusher doesn't believe it in Identity Crisis, so why should we? After all, don't we all try to deny emotions we don't know how to cope with?

To Ray Dowsett - Put your Cambridge fandom total up to five. Perhaps we could form our very own away team. Just so long as I'm not the one who has to push the buttons! That isn't as cryptic as it might sound. Have you noticed that Enterprise away teams seem to like nothing better than pushing any stray buttons they might find, especially red ones. This strikes me as being a little risky even if they have dispensed with the red shirts. My nomination for the most buttons in an episode is Datafore. Any other offers?

To Helen White - re "coming out". I put a number of TNG posters up at work and it's amazing how many people recognise the subjects without prompting. They also seem to know the most recent plots as well. Closet fans?

To Kathleen Glancy - re Janice Lester. Why are all the worst female characters in Trek called Janice - from the dippiest yeoman in the fleet to the psychotic Ms Lester. I'm changing my name to Tasha...

I'm glad that someone else hates "Captain, I'm frightened" as much as I do! Why are women always frightened when men are only scared?

To Ann Peters - Your opinion on Data's progenitive powers seems "logical" to me!

By the way, have you ever felt that Star Trek has warped your view of the English language? For me, words like 'logical', 'enterprise' and 'trek' have only one meaning. I get very confused if I see them in the "incorrect" context.

To Ian Pearce - Spock's Brain is a spoof - and an extremely funny one at that. Or at least I'm perpetrating a vicious rumour to that effect.

To Christine Snow - Thank you for a really thought provoking article about City on the Edge of Forever. I'd never thought about it quite like that. It's a

sign of a well written episode if you can come back to it again and again and still find something new to say about it.

Gary Heron - Falkirk

From what I have heard and seen (Richard Arnold had a few slides at Silvercon) of Star Trek VI The Undiscovered Country it looks good, although it is still too early to tell.

As this is probably going to be the last film with the original cast I want to see it with as little pre-knowledge of the story line as possible. This is in direct contrast to the first five, where in many cases I have read the book before seeing the film. I hope that future issues of the IDIC newsletter will include warnings in articles which give plot details so that readers can decide for themselves how much they wish to know about the film.

On the subject of the Postbag, I feel that reducing the length of this section would be a mistake and I much prefer the idea of encouraging writers to keep their letters brief or submit them as articles where appropriate. Because of the bi-monthly nature of the IDIC newsletter and the large size of the postbag it manages to sustain the atmosphere of a group discussion which I feel would be lost if fewer letters were published.

With regard to Simon Goodall's points about TNG technology -

1) It is my understanding that the warp figures quoted in TNG are not equivalent to those from Classic Trek. Apparently scientists working on warp drive discovered a fundamental limit to the speed of warp drive (although this limit was far greater than the speed that the original Enterprise could achieve). They therefore redefined the values of the warp numbers assigning warp 10 to the newly discovered upper limit and recalibrating down the scale to warp one.

2) The transporter technology in TNG shows several advances from the original series, particularly precision beaming as shown in The Child and beaming at warp speed. In Contagion, Picard is shown talking while in the transporter beam.

3) I think the pulse seen in the warp nacelles just before the Enterprise enters warp drive is simply a power surge caused by the warp drive being engaged, rather than a pulse of warp energy.

4) Since Dr. McCoy was not able to remember how he operated on Spock's Brain and since the planet was not a member of the Federation there is no reason to believe that the information was ever made available to Federation Doctors.

Lesley Thompson - Wimborne, Dorset

Just like to tell you that I think the N/L is excellent. I read it avidly and everything stops until I have. I've never written before due to my natural reticence and shyness (believe that and you'll believe anything!) However, I feel it is time I made a contribution as I think I might have an answer to the question asked by Lloyd Lewis about the book with the Roman Gladiator who's dug up. I think it's The Far Arena by Richard Ben Sapir - I have a copy if he wants to borrow it as I believe it is now out of print.

Re "coming out" and admitting you are a fan of Star Trek, I decided to do this just recently - I mean, I've always told people I'm a fan but I've never advertised it, but a couple of weeks ago I thought "why not?" so I sewed my official fan club badge on a T-shirt and off I went. I was amazed at the response - I had more people come up and speak to me about my badge than had spoken to me all the time I've lived here (O.K. so I'm exaggerating - but not by much) and I of course was thrilled - there were other Trekkers living in my village! In fact, a couple of us are intending to get together and form an informal group to watch episodes and have a good time. Just goes to show you that no matter how long you live somewhere you don't know everything about the people you live with. If I'd done this earlier who knows where it might have led?

Nina Lynch - Hull

Many thanks for IDIC. It was very informative and interesting as usual. I would like to add my twopennyworth if I may.

I would like to say that the cuts in Icarus Factor regarding Werf were unnecessary, and I do think that the missing part at the end of his ceremony added to his character and also that of the Klingons' nature.

Is Data studying Human nature too well? In Time Squared, he definitely looked to be scratching his head as if he were thinking - or perhaps he had a screw loose? Talking of Data, I loved the way he stepped in front of Picard in A Matter of Honor when the Klingon Captain arrived. It was so subtle I didn't notice until the second time of viewing.

I have just watched Yesterday's Enterprise. (Took me a while to figure it out, as I expected a Mirror Mirror one) and I wanted to know if anybody else reckons Geordi is wearing the wrong uniform at the end when he is talking to Guinan.

My main comments on Redemption (end of season 4) I will keep to myself but I would just like to say that as cliff-hanger it didn't grab my imagination or curiosity and I don't expect that I shall bother watching part 2 as I don't really care how it ends. That sounds very disparaging but we can't all like the same episodes. Now the end of Best of Both Worlds - *that is a cliff hanger!*

I do wish people would stop saying Tasha Yar is back - she's died twice now. It's *Denise Crosby* who returns!

To Susanne Richardson - love the jokes! More, please.

To Chris Brown - re boots - I just bought plain calf length black boots from Benson (£9.99) and they look fine with trousers tucked in.

Has anyone actually won in the Shell game, and did anybody ever get a Riker?

I had been trying for a long time to get James Blish 7, and have finally managed to get it, but in hard back. Does anyone know if all 12 were published in hard back?

Does anyone know of a Star Trek club in England devoted entirely to Original Trek? I know that there is one in Germany.

I love reading everybody's comments regarding Star Trek. They cover such a wide range of topics, from the light hearted (reasons why Kirk is pulling on his boots) to the more serious (the on-going Data discussion). I personally don't mind how long the postbag is, as reading it is like having several conversations with different people all at the same time. If I do come cross a comment I would like to reply on, I mark the margin with an asterisk and don't have to re-read the whole magazine. *[Ed - Sheila asked in her garage and was told they'd given out several hundred pounds' worth of the low-value prizes. However, every card she got or saw had 7 Kirks...]*

Gaile Wood - Tamworth, Staffs

To Simon Goodall - concerning the niggles regarding warp speeds. Perhaps the reason why Galaxy Starships cannot exceed certain speeds is because there are physical limitations in the design of the ships. Even super-resilient metals could be affected by stress - I believe this was a problem the 'old' Enterprise suffered. Who knows, there might have to be a whole new branch of physics 'discovered' to deal with this in the programmes.

I thought that Spock's Brain was removed by aliens with alien technology - which McCoy had to resort to to restore it to Spock's body. Wasn't Geordi's blindness dealt with in a second season story - Dr. Pulaski offers to do an op. and

he refuses.

To Lesley Hatch - interesting idea about Yar and Worf. I think she would have to resort to some pretty drastic tactics to attract his attention. Thumping him with a cricket bat is one that springs to mind. In the Dauphin he goes on and on about females scratching, biting and hurling objects while the males read 'love poetry'? Oh - but for the chance!

To Ann Peters - does Data have speed controls and what sort of batteries would he take - Duracell, I hope! - if he's going to 'give a girl a good time'?

To Christine Snow - you and Helen White watch Red Dwarf. It is brill!

Now a question: how come Worf is supposed to have no family, then I find out he's got a 'bird', kids and a brother. Very confusing.

Russell Scott - Walton on Thames, Surrey

In N/L 16, Jeff Martin posed an interesting question - how would Data be able to tell if he experienced an emotion? Jeff said that Data would need a referent to know that his experience was emotive, but could not possibly have one, never before having experienced an emotion or feeling. While this is a valid observation, it is also a point that could apply to all of the Humans on the planet. We ourselves can only be sure of what specific emotions feel like by experiencing them first hand. We are then only aware of what we have experienced thanks to the constant display of emotion by those around us - we judge our reactions and feelings against those of other people, as well as looking to established 'norms'.

This is very similar to, if not exactly alike, the situation in which Data finds himself - he looks to those around him for pointers on how to behave, and is able to measure his responses against those of his fellow crewmembers.

As he has lived among Humans for thirty years, one would expect Data to be at least partially versed in how to recognise emotion, both in himself and other people. Granted it is almost impossible to say whether or not Data *experiences* emotion (although I myself believe that he can, on the basis of occurrences in several third and fourth season episodes - notably The Most Toys, Brothers, Legacy and In Theory) and I dare say the argument will rage on long after the series has ended - unless TNG itself states whether or not Data can feel. However, it is fair to say at this point that he is at least *capable* of doing so, and of being able to recognise it as such.

Some other points - Data desires and wishes to solve the Human equation - is desire not, in itself, a feeling? This desire is also recognisable as ambition - an aspiration to achieve a completely emotional state. His very nature should prevent Data from having ambition, but it is clear that he does. Anyone care to explain this? And to Ann Peters - I always thought that compassion was, in itself, a feeling, not a state of mind.

In many ways, Data is a child, gradually exploring and learning what it is like to be Human - and the acquisition of feeling and emotion is surely going to be part of his growth.

Colin Gunn - Stoke on Trent

I would like to bring to the attention of my fellow members and fans of the programme we all love dearly what I have discovered to be the biggest rip-off that I've ever seen.

I responded to an ad I saw in one of the sci fi magazines for Star Trek merchandise for sale. Always looking for products I do not have, I sent for a list of what he had for sale. Looking through this, I saw the Romulan model from some years back at £2.50 and what were described as Captain Kirk poster, Mr. Spock poster and Enterprise 25th Anniversary posters at £1.25 each. He also had the Inside Star Trek audio tape at £3.50. I sent for these.

Upon receipt of my products I thought April 1st had come round (either late this year or early next). The model was not as advertised but was a badly made Bird of Prey from the Spaceship set. The posters - ha! *what* posters? All they were were sub-standard A4 black and white photocopies from some old magazine which had an article for Trek in it. The tape was nothing short of an insult - all it was was a recording (first part at the wrong speed) of the LP - a scratched LP at that. I couldn't help but feel disgusted and cheated by this person who claimed to have original merchandise.

With my order he sent me a new list of things for sale. On it were the Menagerie photonovel in black and white and The Doomsday Machine photonovel in black and white. I've been a fan for 22 years and I've never seen these. Are these more of his so-called 'original' fakes?

If any fan or member comes across an ad for merchandise from Starbase Wales or P Mohammid they must stay clear of him. This is downright abuse of fans and he should be boycotted from advertising in the mags (unfortunately I doubt if this would happen as it was a classified ad).

At least fans now know of this blatant scam. Have any other members had stuff from him already? I'd really like to know.

Richard Fuller - Crumlin, Dublin

This time, let me give you all an idea of how misinformed Trek fandom is in Eire at present. Recently reading a film review in our local evening paper (The Herald) I was shocked to see a paragraph saying a sixth Star Trek film was unlikely because of the last one's ratings! There is going to be egg on the face of whoever wrote this when Six is screened!

To Gloria Fry - Thank you for your comments about Scotty.

To Kathleen Glancy - I would say James Doohan's accent is far from generic. He is a craftsman at accents and has done perfect justice to the Scots accent. Before you criticise further, remember Trek takes place three centuries from now, so there could be a different type of accent entirely in Scotland by then, if not a single accent for the world - which might stop people criticising irrelevant matters such as accents in the first place.

To Elena Bond - I guess you and I lucky folks know what it is to get the thrill of a lifetime in our letterbox as a photo of our favourite hero - in my case Jimmy, in your case Jonathan - comes our way. It's truly awesome, isn't it, to know that a person who is so busy with work, con appearances and family can take time out for us folks to read our letter and reply with a special personal touch. It gives you a great feeling of worth. When I look at Jimmy/Scotty now I say inside, "Wow, that man actually wrote to me", and it's an amazing feeling. When I wrote to Jimmy last year praising him about his acting ability and personality, etc, I never expected a reply and certainly not as fast as February this year. It's great to know that your loyalty and respect for your favourite character is appreciated and that he is just as much a marvellous and wonderful gentleman in real life as on screen. I'm proud to be a James Doohan fan and to promote him in any way I can - not that he needs anyone to do so, he's his own best ambassador.

I'd just like to tell you about James Doohan's fan club, recently set up in Dallas in Texas. I recently got my membership package and was delighted. For my \$18 I got a very humorous autographed magnet on a white background with a cartoon-like sketch of Scotty with his feet up for a change listening to the radio and reading a technical manual. On it is written "Beam me up, Scotty, there's no intelligent life here." It was autographed in Jimmy's lovely handwriting. The magnet will stick to a refrigerator or car, or anything suitably metallic.

The membership certificates are very nicely got up and are printed on a blue paper suitable for framing. The newsletter told me a lot. Jimmy has been offered a part in a film that will be shot either in Ireland or - better still - Scotland.

Let's get up off our butts and ask con organisers for Jimmy. If the Australians and Germans can get him then we ought to be ashamed of ourselves! He will surely come if we make our voices heard. In the meantime, I urge you to write to the club's president, Gail McDonald, and give your support to an excellent club! THE JAMES DOOHAN FAN CLUB: No. 1-361, 13410 Preston Road, Dallas, Texas 75240, USA.

Finally, Janet, last but not least. With regard to your remarks about a claymore in Gloria Fry's better than usual review of Day of the Dove about not being able to lift a claymore, well, I have seen one (being an expert on Scottish history). There is more than one type. The older models resemble broadswords and are heavy, but the graceful 18th century one Scotty picked up is easily lifted up in one hand by an average Scotsman who's just had his Weetabix!

Sherry Golding - Orpington, Kent

I read the letters about how Tasha Yar can be returned to life and thought of a different idea.

Captain Picard and crew have to take an unusual scientist to another world, a primitive planet whose inhabitants have sent a message, through a visiting research team, who live on this scientist's planet, Yen One.

The scientist's mission? To build scientific research stations, medical labs, etc, to enhance their progress. While en route he learns through Data of Yar's death on Vagra II. Unknown to Picard, this scientist, advanced as he is, knows of an unusual way of returning life to Yar.

He can return spirit and biological matter etc to the skeleton of the dead person, using any kind of DNA strands or elements belonging to the one who died. Whether this is a good or bad thing, whether it really works, how it works, what happens next or how this scientist redevelops this other planet is left to your imagination (or writing).

Ann Peters

I was very surprised to read in N/L 17 that no-one had invited Marina Sirtis to a British convention. I was beginning to feel a little peeved that, with all the cons she does attend, she couldn't manage just one appearance over here, but the fact that she hadn't even been asked just didn't occur to me. Considering she is British born and bred, I think she has every right to feel hurt.

I have written to the Beeb twice now, complaining about the timing of TNG and both times I received a reply. Yes, folks, that's where all the licence money goes! Although both letters contained the standard "...humanly possible... choice..." rubbish, each one did have a different paragraph at the beginning and each time it was quite relevant to the comments I had made - a clear indication that they DO read our letters. So I would urge anyone who is even vaguely annoyed with the cuts and/or timing of TNG to write to the BBC. Don't write to IDIC; don't moan to your parents or your spouse or to Richard Arnold; target the people responsible. Write to the BBC!

I keep coming across implications that TNG appeals to the younger and original series to the older people and I think this kind of prejudice should stop. While it is true that some older fans have grown intolerant of new ideas and won't open their minds to TNG, the greater sophistication of the new series is well suited to more mature people. And while many younger people find the original series rather old-fashioned and cheaply produced, it does have a lot more action and adventure, which often appeals to youngsters. It really is down to individual taste, not to chronological age.

To Linda Norman - I support your comments that Star Trek is only a TV show. If we start to take it too seriously, then we really are like Lt. Barclay in Hollow Pursuits, and Bill Shatner's 'get a life' comment isn't a joke after all.

To Ray Dowsett - I can't accept your description of 'life' as 'derived from

flesh and blood'. This would cut out the whole of the plant kingdom and many of the simpler kinds of animal life on this planet, all of which are generally considered to be alive. But I do agree with you that bringing in the concept of 'soul' gets us nowhere.

To Simon Goodall - The TNG crew don't stand 'stiff as boards' because the transporter requires it; they do it to show off those wonderful body-hugging uniforms of the first two seasons. And don't they look magnificent in that 'ready to beam' pose... especially Data... (sigh).

To Roger Buck - I really must thank you for your comments on the Data article. Considering that elsewhere in the N/L I was busy disagreeing with you yet again, I'm very glad to find that we do have some common ground. Firstly, it's nice to know the effort was worthwhile, and secondly you pointed out aspects I had not considered. I used the word 'compassion' because I was addressing accusations made by Jacqueline Comben in her anti-Data article way back in N/L 13. But you would have used the word 'love'. Now, while Data would certainly not admit to feeling love, perhaps he might accept that he can simulate compassion. If so, then by your argument, he would be admitting to being capable of the very best kind of love. Do you think we should tell him?

Data and a friend decide to live together, huh? Anyone who has seen In Theory will know that isn't the plot at all. In fact, the script itself actually points out that they aren't living together. So why the lie? To whet our appetites? Well, it certainly did that! But surely, if fans are led to expect too much, they will be disappointed and hate an episode, seeing it for what it should have been and isn't, rather than for what it is. As a first romantic relationship story, In Theory is really quite good, but as a living together episode, it is a big, BIG let-down.

[Ed - We think the phrase 'older fan' is actually the opposite of 'newer fan' and means 'long-term fan' rather than being anything to do with age. Right at the start of TNG, original Trek was occasionally referred to as 'old Trek' before the terms 'original' and 'classic' began to be used. There are chronologically younger fans who are 'older' in terms of fan experience than chronologically older ones who have just discovered fandom. Might it not therefore be simpler to say 'long-term' and 'new' fans rather than use the expression 'older fan'?]

Margaret Connor - Glasgow

In the TNG book Boogymen by Mel Gilden, on page 137 he states that it was the destruction of the USS Yamato in the episode Contagion that gave Geordi the idea of how to save the Enterprise.

Surely this is incorrect. The Yamato's destruction aided Geordi in his discovery of the cause of the Enterprise's malfunctions, but it was Data's apparent demise and subsequent rebirth which led to Geordi's successful solution and the saving of the Enterprise.

Is this just my interpretation of the events depicted in the episode, or does someone out there agree with the author, and if so can you explain to me how that particular conclusion was reached?

Russell Witheyman - Crawley, W. Sussex

Firstly, thanks to everyone at Silvercon who made it a great convention. I hope they do it again sometime. This was actually my first con and definitely not my last! Richard Arnold's talks were fantastic and especially the slide show of ST VI. What an exclusive! The film of Nick Meyer talking about ST VI was also excellent. It was great to finally meet John de Lancie and his wife Marrie Mosiman. They were most kind and pleasant throughout the con. I also managed to catch up on some 3rd and 4th season episodes of TNG. I think out of the 4th season the star episodes have to be Best of Both Worlds part 2, Family, Qpid and the season finale, Redemption part 1. What about that ending - Denise Crosby playing a Human/Romulan? Well, we will have to wait and see, but I did personally chat with

Richard Arnold and he told me she is definitely not playing Tasha Yar and she will not become a series regular.

Although she is not playing Tasha herself, could this be a relative or the late Tasha Yar? Perhaps this will be Tasha's daughter, half Human half Romulan? If you have seen Yesterday's Enterprise you will know what I'm on about and believe this could be possible. Anyway, all will be revealed soon!

I've also just heard the BBC will be going into the 3rd season of TNG back to back with the end of the 2nd. This is good news, as we all know this is where the series really gets going. Well done (for a change) Auntie Beeb!

Finally, I would be interested in learning people's least favourite TNG episodes. Mine are - and these are really bad! - Code of Honor, Home Soil, When the Bough Breaks, The Royale and The Icarus Factor.

Edward Woo - Liver Bird City, Merseyside

To Steve Davis - in reply to N/L 17, if ST VI is the last Trek film, all the characters should have a secured future in Starfleet. For example, Sulu gets the captaincy of the Excelsior, Chekov First Officer of the Reliant and Uhura command of a spaceship or space station. We know Dr. Chapel and Chief Petty Officer Rand are at UFP HQ. Saavik could be resolved by being back on a ship or at Vulcan. As for Kirk, Spock, McCoy and Scotty, they could be left with a few avenues that are open-ended at the end of the film. As for the Klingons, they are dragging a bit as the bad guys, how about the Romulans?

To Simon Goodall - I do agree with you that small technical matters do make ST believable. Like you I can always pick minor points that are not always obvious. As for TNG niggles, I offer these explanations.

- 1) Warp speed numbers have not been changed, but the way it has been calculated has.
- 2) The TNG transporter process is quicker and hence you have to stand still. The slower older system allowed for some movement.
- 3) I don't like the pulse effect on the TNG engines, I prefer the raw power of the Trek films. Some technology that I use at work finds pulsing power more efficient than having it sustained at high rate all the time.
- 4) In Spock's Brain the neurosurgery was performed using the Teacher with no mention of what century it came from. This seems to contradict The Battle which mentioned the charting of the brain and added that there was no such thing as headaches! The Human brain is complex even for medical technology of the 24th century, hence the impossibility of curing the problem with Geordi's optic nerves.

To Ray Dowsett - like you I enjoy the postbag; it is the most thought-provoking section and makes me want to write.

To Karl M John - Picard is more diplomatic and I do agree with you that he has different abilities compared to Kirk. The question about how approachable they are to the crew is a fair point. The size of the ship makes it more difficult. Kirk had a crew of 430, whilst Picard has over 1000. This makes going through the chain of command important. I would like to see a low-ranking crew member actually visit Picard about a minor point, just to show that he is Human and aware of the ship's complement.

The idea of moralising has come up again. Classic Trek was action and talk side by side. If you compare it now, talking is better than violence. For example, in Loud as a Whisper, violence had lasted centuries till they sued for peace.

To Chris Brown - The designation of the USS Excelsior could be NX or NCC. I

GUIDE DOG VENUS



Presented to IDIC Star Trek Fan Club
with sincere gratitude from
The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association 1991



Jimmy Doohan



John de Lancie

believe NX means Naval Experiment if she remains an experiment. If she were operational she would be NCC.

In ST II Saavik wore a red undershirt and red shoulder strap. Her sleeve rank was red with a white diagonal stripe, indicating a cadet studying for command. In ST III and IV she wore a *white* undershirt and white shoulder strap. Her sleeve rank was white with a grey diagonal stripe, indicating a cadet in the command department with a specialty for the sciences. I think Wesley has only got a silver communicator-badge as he's only an Acting Ensign and has not been through Starfleet Academy to earn a gold one.

To John Spelling - Chekov's security scans in ST III of the rooms and corridors etc were based upon the original ST blueprints of the Enterprise - hence they look out of date.

To Ann Peters - I've just seen the episode with Sonia Gomez. She looks like a very good engineer and we should have more roles for women. In fact, my corporation is trying to encourage women to become engineers here in a male orientated society.

To Helen White - I enjoyed your Sea Trek report but I was surprised to hear that Marina Sirtis has not been invited to a British con yet - amazing. I thought any con committee would try to get a member of the new and old cast to come to a con here in Britain. I didn't know con committees had favourite guests - or am I wrong? Surely any fan would like to see Marina here; I certainly would.

The German satellite channel Premiere shows Trek twice a day every weekday. It's the first time I've seen it in German. The opening and end credits are different, the title not ST but something to do with the journeys of the Enterprise. Running time is 40 minutes with some editing. The most recent one was Trouble With Tribbles, with Kirk's questioning of Scott about who threw the first punch edited out.

A work story - my fellow Trek friend at work, Kevin, cut out a picture of the original Enterprise. He arrowed the main deflector dish with the words "Woks are not used for just cooking, by M. Scott". I was selling these Chinese woks to the Engineers at that time, and he put up this 'advert' to drum up business.

Karen Savage - Knightwick, Wores

I've actually seen Star Trek V now (am I the last fan in Britain to watch it?) and didn't like it much; I thought the continuity was bad - there was no 'flow' to the film, just lots of separate action scenes. I wasn't convinced by Sybok either - I think that Spock has had too many undiscovered facets which spoil his credibility as a character. Do other fans find the broad US accent of some guest stars (films, classic and TNG) grating when they're supposed to be aliens or from a colony planet (I suppose the Americans don't notice it)? I think most of the 'regular' cast of both 'old' and 'new' Trek have 'neutral' accents which fit well. I remember Ricardo Montalban's voice in TWOK, which I thought was perfect for the role - although his accent is probably Spanish/Mexican if anything - the fact that he had an accent at all made the character more believable.

I digress, as usual!

Having said that about ST V there were some moments I enjoyed, especially the repartee between K, S and M (eg I liked you better before you died.) I did think that the 'all powerful alien force/being mistaken for/acting God' has been done a few too many times as well - and as for the first Vulcan/Human hybrid child being born in a cave, no chance!

TNG is growing on me; I approached it with an open mind and try not to draw too many comparisons with Classic Trek (though I'm sure there is a certain plagiarism in many stories). I watch TNG now without fail and embarrass my parents by swearing when it's cancelled or postponed for sport (isn't everything). I find

the episode lists useful as I can't remember the titles, having only seen each one once to date.

On the Data debate - I totally agree with Ann Peters and co. After all there is at least one religion of Earth which states that animals have no souls and proceed to mistreat them horribly given this excuse. Does this mean that if we (Humans) consider a being to have no soul (whatever *that* may be) it gives us the right to assume that its life is meaningless and treat it accordingly. Poor Data! (And yes, if I had an off switch I'd weld it on too!)

To Lloyd Lewis - Coincidence, I think, Lloyd, but for 11 years I lived in Cowbridge, shopped and caught the train in Bridgend! A month ago a friend had a clearout and gave me a couple of sci-fi books - one was The Far Arena by Richard Ben Sapir, which is an enjoyable tale about a gladiator dug out of the ice in modern day Europe (not America). If you would like to borrow it you're most welcome and I'll post it to you. I can't help with the film query, though.

Martin Stahl - Marktheidenfeld, Germany

To Ann Peters: In your article THE NEXT (MALE) GENERATION in n/1 12 you write about the women in TNG and that Deanna Troi's part is taken over more and more by Guinan. You suggest that "Maybe Troi should take a few karate lessons and oust Worf from his position now that her counselling role has been usurped by the barmaid. Would this be any worse than the Navigator becoming Chief Engineer?"

When I met Marina Sirtis at Freedom Trek Con I asked her what she thinks about giving Deanna the karate lessons and making her Security Chief. Marina answered that this question isn't as funny as it sounds, because in the first draft of THE ENEMY she was together with Geordi on the planet's surface. Geordi was totally disabled and Troi had to fight against the Romulan. I think that would present an interesting aspect of Deanna. Marina also said that several shows of the first season were without Deanna Troi because the writers just didn't know what to do with this character, and Marina was almost fired at that time.

To Chris Brown - Richard Arnold showed slides of ST VI at Freedom Trek Con. On one slide there was a young Vulcan woman standing near Spock. She was played by Kim Catrall. Richard said she doesn't play Saavik, and he mentioned that Saavik will not appear in the movie.

According to Richard, the only 'facts' are the Original Series, ST-TMP, several elements of the movies II - VI and ST:TNG. Neither the animated series nor the novels/comics are considered 'facts'. ST II - VI were not made under Gene's control and several of the things Gene would never have allowed are Spock's death, the destruction of the Enterprise, Sybok and the relationship we saw between Scotty and Uhura in ST V. By the way, when Spock points out in ST IV that he can discuss death only with a person who also had died, he obviously forgot that McCoy already had died in Shore Leave.

Did anybody recognise the young asiatic man on the bridge in Night Terrors? He was played by Brian Tochi who played the boy Tsing Tao in And The Children Shall Lead.

Jane Fenn - Rushden, Northants

A Cautionary Tale.

Last year I decided to join Paramount's Official ST Fan club and duly sent off the form.

Despite debiting my Visa account in February I heard no more. I wrote 3 times to Paramount enclosing photocopies of my Visa statement but they didn't bother to reply. I also enlisted the help of the U.S. ST Welcomittee who were very helpful but were also unable to get the Official Fan Club to either start sending me their magazine or refund my money.

Luckily for me I had paid by Visa card and I contacted them in July to ask for a refund. Surprise, surprise, they were unable to get the Official ST Fan Club to reply to their enquiries but fortunately for me have refunded my money, £22.54.

I have been amazed and distressed by these difficulties with what is supposed to be a reputable organization. I wonder if they have acted in this manner because it is obviously difficult and expensive to pursue complaints in the U.S. I would advise anyone considering joining this organisation (has any fan actually managed to receive their magazine?) to pay by credit card to ensure you can get a refund in case of difficulties.

It makes me sad to feel an organisation so closely connected with Star Trek has acted in such an uncaring manner.

[Janet: I have been receiving the OFC Magazine directly from them for a number of years with no problems and I haven't heard of anybody else having problems. I do pay by credit card and would advise when ordering by mail order, especially from abroad, to use a credit card where possible. It does give you some protection.

You say you wrote to Paramount. Although the Official Fan Club is licenced by Paramount it isn't run by them. The address is P.O. Box 111000, Aurora, Colorado 80011, U.S.A.

If any members would like copies of the magazine but doesn't want to risk ordering them from the states you can get copies from the British SF Bookshops. Try: ANDROMEDA BOOKSHOP, 84 Suffolk St. Birmingham B1 1TA.

*AT THE SIGN OF THE DRAGON, 131 Sheen Lane, East Sheen, London SW14 8AE.
THE SHEFFIELD SPACE CENTRE 33 The Wicker, Sheffield S3 8HS.]*

YOUR QUESTIONS

Lloyd Lewis Helen, I lurved your write-up of Sea Trek - could you give us some breakdown (some would say I've already had one) of the costs involved please?

[Helen: Cruise (all inclusive) - Cabin price \$2424 (split between occupants, in our case 3, so \$808 each)

Trekfari - \$499 per person in double/twin room.

Pre-cruise Gala - can't remember exactly, about \$100

Flight (return) - £457

Spending money - £800 approx. This included money for meals (where applic.), tips, etc.

Total cost was therefore about £2100, eek.]

Michael Johnson Can anyone tell me if there is a fan club for Denise Crosby?

Mrs H M Bickley What is the true colour of Brent Spiner's eyes?

Helen Wimble: I have never been to a Convention before because they are so far away and I don't know how to get to them - I live in Stockwell, London. Are there others like me? Or are there groups that meet up and go there together? You could try getting in contact with some other fans in the London area through the Friendship Column and then you might be able to travel to a convention with them.

Has Brent Spiner ever been a guest at a convention (especially a British one.) Brent Spiner has been a guest at a couple of U.S. Conventions but he really is rather shy. He has never been to a British convention but I expect future con committees will be trying to get him.

Bev Ambrose: Can anyone tell me which of the original episodes were banned? A friend tells me Plato's Stepchildren was one because "Kirk kissed a black lady". The BBC banned The Empath, Whom Gods Destroy and Plato's Stepchildren. We heard they banned the last because they didn't like the way Kirk, Spock and McCoy were telekinetically controlled. Whatever the reason the BBC certainly wouldn't ban it because Kirk kissed Uhura. The episode Miri was only shown once and then it was banned as well.

Also on the back of the box for the video Spectre of the Gun, it states that the voice of the warning buoy is James Doohan, and yet on the credits at the end it says that it is somebody called Abraham Sofaer. Can anyone explain this?
According to Star Trek Concordance by Bjo Trimble James Doohan did the voice for the Melkotian Buoy and Abraham Sofaer did the voice for the Melkot - the alien.

Helen Wimbly - Have you any information on the album recording by Brent Spiner titled Ol' Yellow Eyes Is Back. Has the album been completed? Is it available over here? Where can I get a copy?

Was Leonard Nimoy really in TNG Up The Long Ladder as it said in the Sun on August 28th? I don't recall seeing him.

[Richard Arnold and Guy Vardaman brought copies with them to recent conventions. We don't know of any particular shop which has them but DWB's August issues said you could place an order by phoning (0101) 1 -800-258-6700. The CD costs \$14.95 and the cassette is \$8.95. No, Leonard Nimoy was not in Up The Long Ladder. I'd suspect that the Sun had just got the news that he was to appear in TNG and jumped to the wrong conclusion. His appearance in TNG will be in November (in America).]

Gary McClusky: Could you tell me what the token 25th Anniversary stickers on the Star Trek videos are for.
[You can get an order form from some of the shops and buy 25th Anniversary merchandise like T-shirts. I think you only need one sticker per item. Try asking round the shops.]

YOUR SUGGESTIONS

Gary Moffat: I would like to see a hard cover on the newsletters as it would keep the pages together much better.
[Unfortunately if we used a card cover we would lose 4 pages and it would increase the cost of the newsletter.]

RICHARD ARNOLD AT SILVERCON

reported by Sheila Clark

Richard always splits his talks into two at cons; one about TNG and one about the movies.

His TNG talk at Silvercon included much of what he said at JFP in May - of course, it's hardly to be expected that he would be able to include much more after two months when filming is in hiatus - and I don't see much point in repeating this. Much of what was new came as a result of questions.

He told us that Yar's planet was the Borg ship redressed. Brent Spiner worked 16/17 hour days while filming Brothers. Marina Sirtis was originally cast as Yar. Eric Menyuk (The Traveller) was in the running for the part of Data, to do it with a shaved head - and then Patrick Stewart was cast(?). Wil Wheaton had turned down other work because he was a Trek fan and enjoyed working on Trek. Gates McFadden has worked as a choreographer. The Klingons were based on the Samurai. Riker's middle name is Thelonus (and we thought 'Tiberius' bad?)

It has been commented on that Gurnan and Troi have very similar roles and that they never appear together. This is because they never know when Whoopee will be available; she has to be written in when she is, and this is the simplest way to do it - to give her lines that would otherwise have been said by Troi.

Someone brought up the question of why were Kirk and his crew not mentioned

more often in TNG. Richard pointed out that although their exploits would have been studied, this did not mean that their names would necessarily be known. To make his point, he asked if there were any sailors in the audience; there was, and Richard asked if he could name the Captain of any vessel of a hundred years ago, then when he couldn't, if he could name any WW2 Captain. Again he couldn't - and yet in their day several would have been well-known names.

Richard has mentioned in the past that TNG has brought letters of protest to the studios from several minority groups - this time he spoke about being quoted out of context, which brought him hate mail from the gay community. (Someone at a con had asked about gays on the ship, and he had replied how would the audience know that a character was gay? Would they have to sashay down the corridor wearing little pink triangles on their uniforms? and he was quoted as saying that any gays on board would be identified that way.) He also mentioned protests from a religious group who were annoyed that 400 years in the future the Second Coming had not yet happened!

In Identity Crisis, Geordi's make-up took 7 hours to apply; it was UV make-up and if it hadn't been for the need to have the actor's movements accurate, any extra could have done the job because during the scenes using the UV make-up, Geordi was unrecognisable.

One of the slides Richard showed was of a 16-year old fan who had won a day as an extra in a competition... in the episode Patrick Stewart directed!

George Bush collapsed *after* meeting the TNG cast in May.

The change in the Romulan make-up was due to a mistake - someone hadn't realised that the Romulans and the Vulcans were related.

Someone asked about the comics and 'facts' given in them - with particular reference to the cover for the 25th year issue. Paramount had passed it because the comics audience is a small one (100000 a month) but added that if anything different was done on screen, the comic would be stated to be wrong.

Someone asked about the various Enterprises (A - D). A and D we know about, and C we learn about in Yesterday's Enterprise. Richard said B probably followed some 20 years after the films and was 'now' out of service (or there would be no C or D).

A question was asked about the Captain's Yacht - this would be an expensive set to make, and would take up a large part of the budget, but there was a script using it in the fifth season.

Asked about Tasha Yar returning, all he would say was that Tasha would not be back and although Denise Crosby did make an appearance she would not be a regular. Pulaski might also return in a guest role.

Some of Trek's technology now exists; other aspects of it are extrapolated from today's technology, and they have science consultants.

Richard's movie talk started as always with a selection of slides from the various movies, finishing with 12 from ST VI - carefully selected (see below) to give away nothing at all about the story. He then showed two very short videos, the first of Nick Meyer giving an 'introduction' to ST VI which gave his thoughts on Trek but revealed nothing about the film. The second was a tribute to Gene Roddenberry by the Trek actors.

Richard then went on to answer questions, although during the session he pointed out that there was a limit to what he was allowed to say. He had, for example, started off with some 500 slides. These were checked over by the show's publicist, the film's producer, the president of the studio's marketing division worldwide, then Leonard and Bill. The 500 became 60, then 42, then 20, and finally

he was left with the 12 he showed. He couldn't name characters yet or even anyone behind the scenes who haven't already been announced. He hadn't even been cleared to name the composer, although the Official Fan Club had printed a name. He was now however able to confirm that ILM was to do the special effects.

He could tell us that Mark Lenard, John Schuck, Grace Lee Whitney, Todd Bryant and David Warner would all be appearing; the first three reprising earlier roles, the second two as well as Christopher Plummer and Michael Dorn playing 'new' Klingons. Saavik and Chapel would not appear as there was no place for them in the story.

It is set on Earth and several other planets, as well as in space. Alaska was used for a location set.

ST VI will probably have a mid-February (14th) release in Britain. It's not likely that there will be any more Classic Trek films after this one; although George Takei and Nichelle Nichols are willing to go on, none of the others are. Filming days are long days, and Jimmy Doohan and De Kelley are both over 70 now. If 6 is a success, though, the studio might try to persuade them to do a 7th.

There are 2 TNG scripts in the works for 1994 if everything goes according to plan - the TNG schedule at the moment is six seasons, a hiatus and then TNG movies.

He told us about a practical joke Bill Shatner had played on De Kelley one day. De was worrying about losing his memory, and this sparked off Bill's sense of humour. De had a toasted muffin every morning, so Bill got someone to distract De and removed the muffin from the toaster. De sort of shook his head and put in another one - was distracted again and the second muffin also removed, after which he realised what had happened.

He was asked what the two casts thought of each other. The TNG cast had always been a little in awe of the Classic Trek cast, but the Classic Trek cast was doubtful to start with. Nichelle Nichols was the first to accept TNG in public - she told a con that with TNG the fans had won. They had wanted more Trek, and they'd got it. The two last were Leonard Nimoy and Bill Shatner; LN had been at a con, and while waiting to go on for his talk, he had been watching TV, and TNG was on. It had caught his attention to the point where he was late for his talk! Bill Shatner hadn't seen it at all, but made a point of watching it before the Two Captains Con because he knew he would be on stage with Patrick Stewart, and when the inevitable question was asked, he gave it his approval. The two casts now get on very well.

The point was made that the two Captains had different philosophies; Kirk's was "I'll count to three - 1, 2, fire!" while Picard's was "I'll count to three - 1, 2, 3 - I'm not kidding - 4, 5, 6..."

JOHN DE LANCIE AND MARNIE MOSIMAN AT SILVERCON

reported by Sheila Clark

I had some problems here with audibility on the tape. The audience weren't always getting mikes and John and especially Marnie didn't always repeat the questions. Some of what they said has therefore had to be mislead out.

The very first question was to Marnie - was John a real Scot? (referring to the kilt provided for him.) Marnie said he was as far as she knew.

They were asked if they liked working together. They said they did, although before Man and Superman they hadn't worked together for 10 years. They made some

rules for themselves and it worked.

When they first met, she was sharing a dressing room with another actress who knew John; he looked in one evening to say hello and after he left, the other girl told Marnie, "He's gay!" She had some difficulty coming to terms with the fact that John and Marnie then married - "I always thought he was gay!"

John had to audition for the part of Q, although it was less gruelling than auditions often were because he didn't have to impress sponsors. He reckoned the middle-of-the-road actors often did best under those circumstances.

For Loud As A Whisper, the actor playing Riva really was deaf, and a 'speaking' actor standing beside the camera 'signed' the words for him. Originally Riva's Chorus simply lost the ability to communicate with/for Riva; later it was decided that they should die. Marnie said she would like to get another role in TNG. She was considered for the doctor in the second season, and thought they made an interesting choice when they cast the older Diane Muldaur.

Their children (Keegan and Owen) liked the Robin Hood set in Qpid. John said that bellows which appeared in the original Errol Flynn version of Robin Hood also appeared on the Qpid Robin Hood set. Their older son wants to act; they hope he'll grow out of it!

Asked if Trek was a help or a hindrance to his career, John said that so far it was a help.

At one time it was suggested that TNG needed a Miss Q (Marnie thought that was just a joke). John said he was happy with the role and the amount he does.

They said it was quite easy to step away from the emotion called for in a scene - doing the scene released the emotion - but the adrenalin rush didn't go away. John said your body doesn't know you're pretending, and it does react.

Asked if they were ever hassled as actors, John said mostly not, although on one occasion he had a glass of water thrown at him by a woman as he was walking through a restaurant. She wanted to catch his attention.

The difference between cons in Britain and America was quite marked. In Britain the fans have more of a sense of getting together for a social event, with a lot of camaraderie - "I'll see you at the con!", whereas the professionally run cons in America had little sense of spirit.

John mentioned that on the flight home from Blackpool (after Frontiers) they were 1.5 hours into the flight when the passengers were told there was a problem with the hydraulics and the pilot didn't know if the landing gear would go down. The flight still had nine hours to go, giving the passengers the feeling of "Why tell us now?" He said he had a letter written to Marnie tucked away in his wallet just in case things went wrong, but the plane did land safely.

Marnie said John was very domesticated; John said that at one time he made money by cleaning apartments.

Marnie would like to do Man and Superman again; John commented that UK actors had an advantage over American ones in that they do get the chance to replay the same roles, sometimes several times. US actors don't get that chance.

One job Marnie enjoys is voice-over and animation acting; she feels there is more freedom in those parts than working in front of a camera. John felt that stage work was more rewarding; the actor was more in control of his performance. In filming the actor has no say in what takes are used.

There followed a lengthy discussion about stage work as opposed to filming. John said that stage work pays very little, especially in Los Angeles and New York

because there are so many actors in both places - a couple of years ago he was in a play which ran for four months - plus rehearsal time. He was paid \$25 a week, and this was a typical wage for those towns (although repertory in other towns can pay up to \$500 a week). Film work is therefore needed to finance time an actor spends on stage. Marnie added that a five-minute voice-over can earn as much as several weeks on stage.

John said that once an actor is committed to a play he can't get time off to do a film. Marnie mentioned one actress who needed one day off during preview time - the show hadn't even opened - to be able to get a guaranteed 13-week TV role that would have paid £150000. The theatre would not give her the time off even although there was an understudy available.

John went on to say that prestige was another currency for which an actor would work. He quoted one job he did for \$50 which had a lot of prestige attached to it.

He went on to say that actors who say "I only do..." don't get much work.

On roles for women, Marnie said that only 17% of jobs are for women. John went on to quote one producer who said that the only women who appeared in his films were either naked or dead.

John was asked if he was typecast as an evil character. He said not really - but they kept him from having to do love scenes, which he hated and tried to play for humour as far as possible; but when he played in *Thorn Birds* this was not possible. His instructions were to look 'smitten' when the girl walked in; his description of how he managed to get a 'smitten' look had the audience rolling on the floor. (For the full story, get the *Silvercon* video!)

They finished by saying that they didn't think the audience should see the actor acting. To see someone actually acting is really bad. With that, time was up.

SILVERCON VIDEOS - Professional quality VHS video, 2hrs 50 minutes. Price £10 + £1.10 p&p (£11.10). All profits from this video will be donated to The Myasthenia Gravis Association. Please make cheques/POs payable to Silvercon and order from George Haggerty, 4 Abbeydale Way, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HW. Allow at least 14 days for delivery.

NE'A'DRIAR : JOHN CORRIGAN'S TALK

reported by Helen White

IMPORTANT! JOHN'S TALK WAS ALL ABOUT STAR TREK VI; IF YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW ANY MORE, STOP READING NOW!

John Corrigan is a stuntman/actor who has worked on *Trek* before and is a regular guest at Ne'a'driar cons. He quite often acts as a bodyguard to members of the cast, because he's quite a teeny chap and looks totally undangerous: however, he is highly skilled in martial arts.....

He began his talk by saying that he'd had a call from Walter Koenig, asking whether he'd like to visit the set of VI. When he arrived, he found that security was very tight; he had to go through three lots of security guards just to get onto the set. A scene was being shot when he arrived: a security guard was zooming about with a phaser. As he went past, John grabbed him and asked to see the phaser ("I'm a friend of Walter's"), after which Walter came up and asked how he'd got it,

as no one was allowed to play with them!

Useful bits of information: the cast don't all die at the end of the film; Jack Palance and Whoopi were originally going to be in it, but they pulled out; Chris Plummer is in, as are Grace Lee Whitney and Majel (although on Star Trek, Majel said that she wasn't - maybe she got something to do after the cruise?); the atmosphere of the film is very much like TWOK (not too surprising, as Nick Meyer is directing); all the cast are very pleased with their parts; they all trained and got into shape specially, as it's the last film with the original cast (mind you, I expect that the mainstream press will make their usual 'funny' jokes about Zimmer frames etc.); it's a very 'spacy' film, with lots of combat and lots of bodies, although apparently not much gore (but then, you don't usually get gore with phasers, do you?!); each of the cast has something 'special' to do; there's a brilliant tie-in to TNG; a lot of the filming was done in Alaska; we will see a new race of Klingons "from somewhere else, not just with different bumps on their heads."

The story, as far as he was allowed to tell us, is that a Klingon ambassador is assassinated; I wonder who gets the blame, ahem. In fact, Kirk and McCoy both get blamed for the killing, and are sent to a penal colony, so Spock and the rest of the crew go to rescue them.

John saw two scenes being filmed; the first was set in the briefing room on the ship and utilised 40 different camera angles! Christopher Plummer plays a Klingon, who at one point says, "to be or not to be," in Klingon.

The second scene involved two security men, plus Spock, Uhura, Chekov and a Vulcanoid female who may or may not end up being called Saavik(!). Scotty comes along, and Spock asks him how long it will take to repair the engines. Mr Scott says crossly that there's nothing wrong with them.

"If we leave now, we'll never see the Captain and Doctor again," says Spock.

"About three weeks, laddie," says Scotty.

More snippets of information: this time round, the four supporting cast each got a trailer and were treated pretty much like the 'big three': finally they're getting the respect they deserve from the studio; the last scene of VI makes it fairly clear that we won't get a VII; Walter told John to pass on a message, which is - thanks for all our support through the years, and they (the original cast) all love TNG as it's carrying on the legend; Gene is overseeing the film, so gets final say-so on what's in or out; Mark Lenard is in VI; it has a new title, which may not be the final one, and which is The Lost Continent.

From all I've heard or seen (ten slides, courtesy of Richard Arnold's slide-show) so far, it sounds as if VI could be the best yet.

GUY VARDAMAN AT CONDUIT

reported by Sheila Clark

For those who don't know him, Guy is an actor; he is a stand-in for Brent Spiner, Wil Wheaton and various guests; and after assisting Richard Arnold in an unofficial capacity for some time he is now Richard's official assistant.

Guy's style of presentation is clearly based on Richard's but his own personality shows as well. I would suspect that Guy is a little more extrovert than Richard.

As usual, he did two talks; one based on TNG and one on the movies, specifically ST VI. At both his talks he showed slides, although at the ST VI one cameras and even audio tapes were not allowed. He did however have a few more

slides than Richard had at Silvercon - presumably in the intervening weeks a few more were passed as suitably uninformative. The one thing that is quite clear is that ST VI is full of Klingons. The following is taken mostly from answers to various questions.

The first question was about Guy's health; he was in a car accident some time ago. He said he still hasn't recovered completely; he now has a bad back.

The big news was that Leonard Nimoy is to appear in two episodes of TNG, filming September and showing in November.

Guy gave us a few anecdotes as he went along. Gates McFadden wears a wig on TNG because her own hair is liable to change without prior notice; on one occasion she filmed part of a scene on Friday, had a perm at the weekend and returned on Monday to finish filming the scene... Eric Menyuk gained a lot of weight through working out between his two appearances on TNG. He was contacted to do Remember Me only six days before filming was due to begin, and in an attempt to slim down enough to fit his previous costume he fasted for the entire six days. They still had to remake his costume. Wil Wheaton got more fan mail than all the rest of *both* original Trek and TNG casts put together! He was being offered film roles he had to turn down because of TNG; he had even been offered his own TV shows. He left to take up film roles and has done at least three since leaving the show. However, he will be guesting in at least one episode (THE GAME), possibly two, in the fifth season.

The slides he and Richard show are official stills taken by a studio photographer who puts in an appearance on the set one or maybe two days a week. If the guest for that episode isn't filming that day, tough. If a particularly good set isn't being used that day, tough. If the photographer is off sick, tough. The result is a slide record that is far from complete, and they have no slides from Home Soil at all.

Patrick Stewart and Whoopi Goldberg get on well together and have discussed working together at some point. Whoopi is not the only well-known actor to want to work on Trek - Robin Williams and Eddie Murphy were quoted as also wanting parts, and Jean Simmons was delighted at the chance to appear.

The show was up for an Emmy in August for make-up (unfortunately I haven't heard how it did.) They've had plenty nominations on the technical side but none for acting or writing.

Paramount is spending less money on the series now because they see it as winding down now it's into its fifth season. After the sixth season the contracts have to be renegotiated, so there will probably not be a seventh season; however, films are possible after that.

Jonathan Frakes brought the episodes he directed in on time and within budget. He had a good relationship with the crew (that is, the technical staff who are never seen) - to most directors they are nameless faces, but having worked with them for years Jonathan knew their names, etc. Brent Spiner and Gates McFadden have indicated an interest in directing. Gates already has choreographing experience.

While Redemption Part 1 (last episode of season four) was filming, ST VI was also filming and practically every other show was in hiatus; 10 sound stages were being used and Paramount was full of Klingons.

The fifth season has produced a new uniform for Patrick Stewart; a red suede jacket with black leather shoulders worn over a loose blue-grey shirt.

TNG has certain rules; however these can be broken if a good story comes along. Gene did not like First Contact; he felt a new race wouldn't be handled like that; but it was a good story, so it was used. The 1701-D doesn't have a

cloaking device because Gene thinks it too militaristic; the Enterprise is primarily an exploratory ship.

Asked what Paramount thought about the time slot the BBC gave TNG, and the cuts, Guy commented that Paramount wants to sell shows. Certain restrictions on cutting, etc, are made - credits, for example, cannot be cut - but basically a show can be put on at any time the transmitting station wants.

The Technical Manual out in October is official; it's been 2-3 years in compiling, and the information in it is being used as part of TNG's technology. An official time line may also be produced. FASA's material (the role-playing game and material produced to go with it) are based on Star Trek but is unofficial and not to be taken as fact.

The ST VI budget is lower than previous ones; and the film is co-produced with ILM, which helped cut costs. However, Guy feels that the film accomplishes more with less money. He said it has something of the look and feel of ST II. Many of the sets are TNG ones redressed (these originally belonged to the movies anyway).

Guy is playing a Klingon gunner in ST VI, in a scene which includes Christopher Plummer.

Asked about blooper reels, he said there would be no more; they weren't being made any more. Majel Barrett took the 1st season bloopers to a con, and someone had the equipment there to link up and copy the tape; these bloopers are now on sale quite openly at cons in America.

Guy was one of the consultants to Universal Studios when they were planning the Star Trek Adventure. For anyone who doesn't know, this is a six-minute adventure with the parts played by people out of the audience interspersed with stock shots of Kirk, etc. One member of our audience commented on a scene where the 'actors' were beamed out from the stage. Guy said this was a clever but not expensive trick, but refused to say how it was done. (I know enough about stage work to have my suspicions.) This ended his second talk. Guy was entertaining and informative, and while I wouldn't like to see him completely replace Richard, I would certainly hope he'll be back.

SILVERCON '91

reported by Katrina Heintz

As I'd never been to a con before I wasn't sure what to expect. The first thing that struck me was how friendly everyone was, so that being on my own didn't matter at all. I had arrived around 11 am on the Saturday to find that the hotel had mixed up the reservations and to be told I had to wait at least an hour to find out if they had a room. So I stowed my case in the left luggage and went to the opening ceremony (what other con starts with a lone piper escorting the guests?) where I met Heather Gibson. We decided to try the dealers' room for a while before trying reception again. I eventually got a room around 2 pm; what a relief to settle in somewhere, and after seeing a few others in their uniforms I decided to change into my own.

There was a wide variety of things going on over the weekend - three video rooms, games room, art room, dealers' room, zine library and the main hall where the talks and more videos were shown; too much for us to see in three days. I attended both John de Lancie's and Richard Arnold's talks that afternoon, both of which I enjoyed very much, though Richard's talk was about TNG, most of which I haven't seen as yet so it was a little confusing, but it made me determined to see the episodes mentioned. After another of my frequent visits to the dealers' room and a very quick bite to eat, I managed to get John's, Marnie's and Richard's

autographs, where I was complimented on my uniform, after which I was on cloud nine. Then it was back to the video rooms; not much sleep for us that night!

On Sunday it was back to the video rooms and dealers' room once more and the not-to-be-missed Richard Arnold's talk on the original series, with stills from Star Trek VI, which looks to be good. I wouldn't have minded the dinner service seen in one still! The film won't be out here until February, but probably the story line will be known before that. After another snatched meal, it was back for John and Marnie's talk, which I found hilarious, especially his reminiscences of The Thorn Birds. Then back to the video rooms again! I had managed to get John to pose for a photograph that afternoon and at the autograph session that night. Heather and I both had our picture taken with John and Marnie. At the ceilidh, Marnie surprised us with an impromptu concert; her version of a song from My Fair Lady was brilliant. A great time was had by all.

Monday dawned with the video rooms and also a few last-minute trips to the dealers' room (this was costing a fortune!). After checking out, it was a dash to see the blooper reels, and I wasn't disappointed - they were as good as I had heard. After which it was time for the final panel of the con, most of which covered the same ground as the previous talks but enjoyable all the same. I was sorry to hear that DeForest Kelley's wife has been ill for so long.

Time seemed to have gone so quickly! The con was officially over. A few more videos to see before going home, exhausted but happy. I had a thoroughly good time. My thanks to the committee for bringing a con to Scotland. My hellos to Heather Gibson, Helen and Brendan Ryder, Alison and Co. from Dundee (aka Sheila's Chain Gang), Heather the steward, whose address I forgot to get, Kenny, also Janet, Valerie and Sheila. I hope to meet you all at future conventions.

NE'A'DRIAR 4 - AN IN-SHALLOW REPORT

by Helen White

I last went to a Ne'a'driar in October 1988; it was also the first con that I ever attended. The fact that I went on to try a major con tells you just how good the Ne'a'driars are - in fact, many people start their con-going career with one. It was good to find, then, that this year's, Ne'a'driar 4, was just as good, if not better.

This year, however, was slightly different; the committee held a murder banquet the night before the con itself. In case you don't know, a murder banquet involves dressing up in suitable costume, being given certain useful bits of information and told who your character is, then having to work out who committed a certain murder. I got it completely wrong; my 'husband' killed two people actually at the meal, and I decided that he'd done it, but I was wrong - it was the Admiral's aide. Still, never mind. It was great fun, anyway, and the meal was good, too, although I don't know what the waitresses thought of people complaining that the chicken was dead, and worse, cooked!

After the banquet was over (there must be a song in there somewhere), we all went outside into the cool evening air and sat around chatting. People drifted to and from the bar, and after a while Wendy, who had co-written the banquet (with, I think, Louise - I'm very sorry if that's wrong), came along saying that Rick Parfitt from Status Quo was in the bar, and was trying to buy Terry's Trek t-shirt! Shortly afterwards, along came Terry himself, looking slightly confused and saying that some geezer had bought him two drinks and wanted to buy his shirt. We explained, amid much laughter, and he returned bar-wards.

Later on, Jo and I went to get some drinks, and found that Rick was still there (okay, I admit it - I wanted to see how much of a Trekker he was....), along

with a pile of Trek merchandise, which he had piled up on the bar next to a large, imposing gentleman in sunglasses and a heavy gold bracelet, whom I took to be his 'minor'. Needless to say, we were all still in costume, and I actually had Vulcan ears on (I was half-Vulcan in the banquet). Rick appeared most interested in us, and we got talking. We discovered that he loves TNG, and we all agreed that you can't trust the Ferengi; he was also very interested to hear that Mick Fleetwood has been in an episode of TNG. We told him to look out for the Borg! We also tried to get him to come to the con on the Sunday, but he regretfully said that he had to play cricket, but would love to go to a con another time. By now, we'd been chatting for ages, and I'd rapidly reached the conclusion that he was obviously totally mad and a dyed-in-the-wool Trekker, as all the best people are, so I asked him to be an honorary member of IDIC. I knew I'd made the right choice when he produced a huge grin. Welcome to the club!

Sunday:

After a late night, we got up ridiculously early, as Jim wanted me to do his Klingon make-up for him. Unfortunately, as we then discovered, he'd left the glue (for the head) behind.... Oh well, we got an early start, and it was a beautiful day.

When we arrived, we reported in as stewards, and were carted off to the committee room, to help carry models to the display table (these people obviously hadn't heeded the warnings about my clumsiness....) However, fortune, as they say, favours the foolish, (or rather, they don't, as it's actually a mis-quote) and I managed not to drop anything. Having installed the models in their places, we zoomed round the dealers' room at speed, goodbye money, and then Jim and I settled down to guard duty, one at each door. While I was on duty, I amused myself by looking at the photos in next year's calendars. The original Trek calendar is the 25th Anniversary one; pity it's got a big mistake in it! February's photo is of Scotty from Wolf in the Fold, but the caption claims it to be Kirk and Scotty in The Lights of Zetar. Oops.

After our stint, we went to watch the video that Terry had taken on Seatrek, but it was of the guests, whom we'd already seen at first hand, so we went to watch recordings of Marina, Patrick, George and Nichelle being interviewed on TV-AM. It's so good to see an interviewer who knows what she's talking about, hello Lorraine.

Following the interviews were the Bloopers, which I for one could watch a million times over and still want to see them again. We all ended up suitably hysterical, needless to say.

After that was the Opening Ceremony. The guests, including John Corrigan (see report on his talk) and Terry Pratchett (author of the Discworld series, the Trucker trilogy and co-author of Good Omens, all of which are brilliant and I highly recommend them), and the committee were introduced, then it was time for the first guest. This was John's spot, in which he talked about STVI. Don't panic, I'm not mentioning the content here - see the talk report for that.

Following John's talk was a space in the programme for....lunch! Those people who attend cons will appreciate what I mean when I say how nice it is to have a lunch-break! We went outside and sat in the sun while we ate (at hotel prices, eg 85p for a (small) bottle of Pepsi, ho hum.)

Lunch over, it was time for Terry's talk; he was as interesting and funny as he usually is. For those who are interested, the next Discworld book involves 'the Witches again, hooray.

Next came the fancy dress, which was won by a very good Borg; it was pretty obvious from the moment that he appeared that he would win, especially as his 'speech' to the judges was, "Winning is irrelevant."

It was then time for the auction, at which I was stewarding, although it was

late starting, as it was held in the same room as the last fifteen minutes of 'nightmare at 20,000 Feet'. We watched said piece of programme, then started the auction. I got quite a few bits and bobs, including a plate with 'Data painted on it (not the 'official' one; I think mine's much better), which now has pride of place on my windowsill.

Once we'd finished all the bidding, we moved out into the hotel lobby and sorted out everyone's purchases - it was like an oven in the room we'd been in, and we were all thankful to escape!

Next came one of the highlights of the day; the famous Ne'a'driar quiz. Last time, I was on a team that came second-last, but this time my lot managed a jolly creditable fifth out of twelve. I must point out that the questions in the quiz aren't only Trek, they're also on such diverse subjects as Beauty and the Beast, Gerry Anderson stuff, Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea, the Discworld books, etc, etc.

Talking of Discworld books, Terry had been 'bagged' by one of the teams, and they were highly gleeful - until he had trouble with the fifth question in that section! However, he remembered in the end, so it was all okay.

After the quiz was the closing ceremony - that's the trouble with having a good time, it goes far too fast - and all the stewards got a poster as a thank you for helping. What a nice idea.

We then tootled about chatting to people for a while, and I caught up with Miri, so to speak, then Jo went to watch Yesterday's Enterprise (again!) and Jim and I stayed and talked, after which we all went home.

As I say, it was a very good con, and I'm going to join the queue for Ne'a'driar 5, whenever it turns out to be! 10/10- a brilliant weekend.

WARP 3 CONVENTION, NUREMBURG 23RD - 25TH AUGUST 1991

by Martin Stahl

As Scotty was my favourite character from the beginning of the series, I always had a special interest in James Doohan, but I never thought I would ever have a chance to meet him personally. When the committee announced this convention for the first time I was aware that I would attend. As a student I couldn't afford to sleep in the Silberhorn Hotel, but fortunately my aunt lives in Nuremburg, and I could sleep in her house together with two friends.

On Wednesday Claudia and Renate came to visit me, and on Friday we went together to the convention. I met old friends, saw some new faces and went to the registration. K.E. Ludwig, Scotty's German voice, passed by, and a little later I saw Jim Doohan for a second. At that moment I understood that he really was there. I spent most of my time talking to friends and listening to Claudia's Irish folk songs. She even played Amazing Grace on an Irish bagpipe. At 9.00pm was the Opening Ceremony with K.E. and Jim, and after that, dinner. Both guest stars spent most of their time with us, and after the dinner I went to Jim and, on the committee's behalf, invited him to become an honorary member of IDIC. He was pleased, and gave me the address where to send the newsletters. In the video room ST IV and V were shown, but I was not interested in them.

When we arrived at the hotel next morning the photo session with Jim had already begun. Each one could have a photo taken together with Jim, and they were developed that afternoon. I met Sylvia, one of my penfriends, for the first time, and was talking to her when a young lady from the press came and asked us for an interview. The questions were the usual ones. What do you do at a convention?

How much money do you spend on Star Trek? What are your other hobbies? During the interview I began a discussion with Sylvia about Amok Time. Due to that I missed the video mix about Jim, but I came in time (and managed even to get a good place, for his guest talk.

Most of the questions were about ST VI. As Jim told us, shooting ended on July 1st, and it is a really terrific script. The movie is at such a pace that you have to watch it at least three times. Michael Dorn plays Worf's grandfather, and Jim told us about a scene they filmed on location which contained about 15 Klingons, 10 Romulans, 10 Vulcans and many aliens from throughout the galaxy. There are aliens he called 'seaweed' because they had very long hair, even in their faces. The relationship between Scotty and Uhura is not progressed any further. In spite of rumours Sulu is the only one who goes to the Excelsior. Jim was sure that there will be a ST VII if this movie is successful. There are many space battles in ST VI. Scotty doesn't go down to any planet, but Kirk and McCoy do. I read a call sheet, and one of the characters is called "assassin". Obviously the story about the assassination of a Klingon and the trial of Kirk and McCoy is true. One scene is about Kirk and McCoy given the chance to go to court again. Majel Barrett does not appear, but Kim Cattrall plays an important part as the Vulcan she plays is in trouble, and in one scene she is questioned at court.

After lunch I saw the bloopers and a nice sketch with slides from the original series that have been dubbed by the German speakers of Kirk, Spock and Scotty for the con. Then K.E. Ludwig answered our questions about the German dubbing of Star Trek, and we learned that the inaccuracies are not always the fault of the writers of the German scripts. There is a lot of politics involved.

Jim and K.E. had their first autograph session and I let them both write into my album. I spent the time until dinner talking to friends, and at 8.00pm began the fancy dress competition. The winner was Dagmar Rosenbauer as an intergalactic gypsy who entertained us with her dance. One of my favourites was the probe from ST IV. Then we went to the terrace and celebrated ST's 25th birthday with three big cakes. After that several of us took a walk, and we enjoyed the looks of the other people, as we were in uniforms or with pointed ears. At the disco in the night several female fans had the pleasure to dance with Jim.

Sunday began with the second autograph session. One fan even got an autograph on the bonnet of her car. I hope she will never have an accident with it! Although I swore to spend no money at the auction I couldn't resist. I got a glass with McCoy from the animated series for o 2.-- and a rare colorform ST adventure set for o. 18.--. Originally I was not interested in it, but then there was this certain fever which many of you know. But I can be sure that the adventure set has a rare educational value, according to the instructions for use. A poster was sold for o. 90.--, and an autograph of De Forest Kelley for o. 107.--.

After lunch Jim and K.E. had their guest talk together, and Jim showed us a private video film his wife made when he made a visit to Cape Canaveral in Florida. He also told us that in his holidays he will make a three day trip through Australia by train.

And then the convention was officially already over. Several fans sang two folksongs to Jim. We thanked the committee for this wonderful convention, and Jim and K.E. for coming, and the committee thanked us for being such a good audience. As Linda later told me, they had trouble finding a hotel for the con, as most hotel managers didn't like the idea to have 200 young people in their hotel. The manager of the Silberhorn was very pleased with us and would do it again. When I talked with some friends and the committee at the registration, Jim joined us. I told him stories that Jim likes to be with his fans, but I had to see it myself to be sure. I even could say goodbye to him personally when I went home on Sunday. I really enjoyed this convention, and once again, a thank you to the com. You did a marvellous job!

ST:TNG THIRD SEASON EPISODES

Synopses by Karen Soarks

EVOLUTION (150) Teleplay by Michael Piller, Story by Michael Piller and Michael Wagner

An experiment for Wesley's school project gets out of control and ultimately results in a new life-form with the power - and a reason - to destroy the Enterprise.

ENSIGNS OF COMMAND (149) Written by Melinda M. Snodgrass

If Data can't convince a large colony of people to leave the world they have settled on, they will all be killed by the rightful owners of the planet - and the colony leader won't listen to an android, and the planet's owners won't listen to a mere Human Captain.

THE SURVIVORS (151) Written by Michael Wagner

Responding to a distress call, the Enterprise discovers a planet has been devastated and its 11,000 colonists killed by a passing warship - but two survivors remain, completely untouched. Troi is being tortured by ceaseless music inside her mind, and the powerful warship returns to threaten the Enterprise.

WHO WATCHES THE WATCHERS (152) Written by Richard Manning and Hans Beimler

An away team have to beam down to a world of primitive, proto-Vulcans to assist the small team of hidden Federation observers. They are accidentally discovered, thus violating the Prime Directive, and Picard has to take drastic action to try to put right the damage caused to the developing culture.

THE BONDING (153) Written by Ronald D. Moore

When Lt. Marla Aster is killed on a mission under Worf's command, Picard and Troi must break the news to the young son she leaves behind. Worf wishes to perform a Klingon ceremony to bond him to the child. The situation is made more difficult when the dead woman apparently reappears in the child's quarters and tries to take him off the ship.

BOOBY TRAP (154) Story by Michael Wagner and Ron Roman, Teleplay by Ron Roman and Michael Piller and Richard Danus

A distress signal is traced to a long-deserted Promellian battleship and Picard leads a team to explore the historic vessel. On their return the Enterprise begins to experience rapidly increasing energy loss, engines do not respond and radiation threatens to penetrate the weakening shields. Geordi calls up a hologram of the propulsion system designer to help him save the ship.

THE ENEMY (155) Written by David Kemper and Michael Piller

On a very inhospitable planet Geordi becomes separated from the away team, and they have to return to the ship without him, taking with them an injured Romulan captive found near a wrecked craft. Struggling to survive the planet's harsh conditions, Geordi is captured by an obviously ill Romulan, and then his VISOR begins to fail and he can't see.

THE PRICE (156) Written by Hannah Louise Shearer

The Enterprise hosts negotiations for the navigation rights to a unique wormhole which will provide a short cut through the galaxy. Delegates drop out of the bidding, one by one, and Troi is strongly attracted to the delegate who is going to win, but is torn when she discovers the methods behind his success.

THE VENGEANCE FACTOR (157) Written by Sam Rolfe

Picard acts as diplomat, attempting to reunite two warring clans of the planet Acamar. The Sovereign leader is brought aboard ship for the journey to search for the estranged Gatherers, and Riker becomes attracted to one of her servants who turns out to be not quite what she seems.

THE DEFECTOR (158) Written by Ronald D. Moore

A Romulan scout ship is chased across the Neutral Zone into Federation space by warbirds, and its occupant requests asylum from the Enterprise. The Romulan is beamed aboard; he claims to be a low ranking logistics clerk but he seems to possess much more information than one of such a rank should. Picard must decide whether he is there to try to stop a war, or to start one.

THE HUNTED (159) Written by Robin Bernheim

A planet recently recovered from a war asks for help in catching an escaped prisoner from their penal colony. The prisoner is caught and held on the Enterprise, and proves every bit as violent and dangerous as planet officials claim - but gradually the reason for his behaviour emerges.

THE HIGH GROUND (160) Written by Melinda M. Snodgrass

When Beverly Crusher refuses to leave patients injured in a bomb blast, she is taken hostage by a terrorist group who need a doctor. Whilst doing her best for the dying terrorists, she learns their side of the story from their leader but cannot convince him of the Federation's neutrality, and the Enterprise is placed in great danger.

DEJA Q (161) Written by Richard Danus

The Enterprise is assisting a planet, the moon of which is out of control and about to crash into their world. Q appears suddenly on the bridge, claiming to have been thrown out of the Q Continuum, and made Human. He asks for sanctuary against one of the many lifeforms he has upset in the past, and which is now threatening him. During his stay Data helps him with some of the trickier problems involved in being Human.

A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE (162) Written by Ed Zuckerman

Riker is accused of murder during an assignment to a space station. All interested parties take part in a hearing on the Enterprise, and using the resources of the holodeck, it becomes clear that everyone has a different view of Riker's actions.

YESTERDAY'S ENTERPRISE (163) Teleplay written by Ira Steven Behr, Richard Manning, Hans Beimler & Ronald D. Moore. From a story by Trent Christopher Ganino & Eric A. Stillwell.

A starship appears from 22 years in the past - her name is USS Enterprise, her registration NCC 1701-C. But all is not well on 1701-D, and only Gurnan realises that their present is now wrong and that there is someone in the crew who shouldn't be there, but she has no evidence to convince Picard of her suspicion.

THE OFFSPRING (164) Written by Rene Echeverria (Directed by Jonathan Frakes)

Following his own creator's techniques, Data creates an android 'child', to the initial dismay of Picard. She learns rapidly from her 'father' and from the crew around her, and passes rapidly into sentience. Then an admiral arrives on board to take her away to Starfleet where she can be better studied and educated, but she does not want to be parted from Data, and Picard is prepared to risk his career to keep them together.

SINS OF THE FATHER (165) Teleplay by Ronald D. Moore & W Reed Moran, based on a teleplay by Drew Deighan

A Klingon Commander acts temporarily as First Officer of the Enterprise as part of the exchange programme, and his different command style causes problems for the crew. He brings news for Worf which necessitates his visiting his homeland to defend the honour of his dead father, and Picard stands as his champion.

ALLEGIANCE (166) Written by Richard Manning & Hans Beimler

Picard is mysteriously removed from the Enterprise and held with 3 aliens in an escape-proof room in an unknown place. Distrust and suspicion arise among the captives as they discuss the problem and come to realise that one of them must be the captor. Meanwhile a duplicate of the Captain on the ship starts behaving increasingly out of character....

CAPTAIN'S HOLIDAY (167) Written by Ira Stephen Behr

Tired after a strenuous diplomatic mission, Picard is persuaded to take a week's holiday away from the ship. He is visited by 2 aliens from the 27th century who tell him he will find a vital object which must be restored to their time. When (and despite) the 'help' of a woman companion, the object is recovered, but Picard must decide who is telling the truth.

TIN MAN (168) Written by Dennis Putman Bailey & David Bischoff (& Lisa White, not credited)

Tam Elbrun, a First Contact specialist and full telepath, joins the Enterprise for its mission to investigate an object thought to be an organic starship which is orbiting a decaying sun. Picard's only hope of protecting the creature, and the crippled Enterprise, from revengeful Romulans is to allow the highly strung, troubled Elbrun (accompanied by Data) to board the craft, with which he is in telepathic contact.

HOLLOW PURSUITS (169) Written by Sally Caves.

Geordi is having trouble with one of his staff who always seems to be in trouble. He discovers Barclay's unique way of working out his frustrations about other officers - on the holodeck - but then all attention must be turned to the ship's increasingly serious system failures, and it looks like Barclay, as usual, will be more of a hindrance than a help.

THE MOST TOYS (170) Written by Shari Goodhart.

Data is kidnapped by a trader who intends to keep him in his priceless collection of unique objects. The Enterprise crew see the shuttle Data was piloting blow up, find traces of his body components in the wreckage, and are mourning his loss.

SAREK (171) TV story & teleplay by Peter S. Beagle.

From an unpublished story by Mark Cushman & Jake Jacobs

The legendary ambassador boards the Enterprise with his party to conduct vital negotiations between the Federation and a new race, the Legarons. Suddenly there are unexplained outbursts of angry violence among the ship's crew; it is surmised that Sarek is suffering from a rare condition which affects control of his own emotions and his telepathic talents cause them to be projected onto other people. If the mission is to be saved Picard must mind-meld with him. (And yes, Spock does get mentioned!)

MENAGE A TROI (172) Written by Fred Bronson & Susan Sackett.

During a trade conference Lwaxana Troi brushes off unwelcome attentions from a Ferengi Daimon who thinks her telepathic abilities would be useful to him. Later, during a picnic with Deanna and Riker, the three are beamed up and held captive aboard a Ferengi ship. Lwaxana sacrifices her own freedom for the other two to be released, and then Picard must fight to win her back.

TRANSFIGURATIONS (173) Written by Rene Echevarria.

An alien is found very badly injured beside a crashed escape pod on a planet. Against all odds, he recovers and his recuperative powers astound Dr. Crusher. The alien cannot remember anything about himself, but begins to display startling powers, enabling him to heal others. An alien ship from his home world arrives, claiming he is an escaped prisoner and demanding his return; the alien knows only that he must survive.

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS (174) Written by Michael Piller.

Responding to a distress signal from a colony, the Enterprise discovers all life there has been wiped out by the Borg. An ambitious female officer is assigned to the Enterprise to help redesign weapons and defence systems; she is also after Riker's job. A Borg ship arrives and demands that Picard surrender himself to them; after engaging in battle, they take him by force, and head for the Terran system at warp 9, with the Enterprise following but knowing they will soon run out of power....

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION EPISODE REVIEWS

COMING OF AGE Episode No. 19 Prod No. 119. Written by Sandy Fries
 Synopsis by Sheila Clark. US Satellite Uplink Date 12/3/88.
 BBC 2 screening 6/2/91.

Wesley is about to sit his entrance exam for Starfleet Academy. At the same time, Admiral Quinn and his aide, Lt. Commander Remmick, come on board and Remmick promptly starts a check of the Enterprise; he checks the logs and interviews the officers in his search for irregularities. In the process he manages to alienate everyone on board. Quinn talks vaguely of a conspiracy, and that he wants his best men in key positions. It turns out that Quinn is considering Picard for promotion - to Commandant of Starfleet Academy - but Picard turns it down.

Meanwhile, Wesley down on the starbase, is one of four candidates sitting the exam - but only one will be accepted, no matter how good the others might be. The one test that terrifies Wesley is the psych test, where the candidates have to face their deepest fears. Since Wesley himself is unsure just what his deepest fear is, he can't even prepare himself to face it. While he is waiting for the test to begin, he hears an explosion and goes to investigate, and discovers two men trapped in a life support lab, with a countdown in progress - only seconds until the door is sealed shut. One of the men is injured, the other has just lost his nerve. Wesley pulls the injured man to safety, all the time trying to persuade the other to make a run for safety, and just makes it into the corridor when the door shuts. This, it transpires, was his test - he had always been afraid that in a situation like that he would be unable to act.

Despite his success in the psych test, however, he comes second to Mordock, a Benzite. Picard finds him, depressed - not so much at having failed the exam as having failed Picard and the Enterprise - and tells him that he, too, failed at his first attempt... and that Wesley must try again the following year.

Comments:

Sheila Clark: After the way Remmick went after Picard, his later comment that he would like to serve on the Enterprise after his stint in the Inspector General's office is over rather jars, because nobody would want anything to do with him. Actually, I found coming events influencing me as I watched this one; Quinn and Remmick appear again in Conspiracy and I was very aware of what was to come.

The way the Academy test was worked strikes me as illogical, for done on this basis, with one passing from every batch being tested, you could get some of the failed candidates with higher marks than some of those passing from other test centres. I'd have thought it more logical for all the marks to be collated and the top X pass regardless of where they were tested, or everyone over X% passes - I sat an exam once where the pass mark was 75%. For the Academy you could say 85%, or even 90%, for a pass mark. The other thing I wondered about was the psych test; given that Wesley had already sat - and passed - that, would he have to resit a psych test, and, perhaps, face his second greatest fear?

Sharon Holmes: I really enjoyed this episode as it clearly demonstrated the loyalty of the crew to Picard - especially Riker.

Wesley's examination didn't take many forms - he sat in front of a computer console for a day or two before he did something very active - the psych test. Did anyone notice that the Vulcan female shook hands? Is this becoming new Vulcan behaviour?

I loved the last five minutes of the episode where the previously extremely nasty Lieutenant Commander who seemed hell bent on finding some form of discrepancy in the Captain's logs requested a placement aboard the Enterprise. This really shows how good the atmosphere on board the ship must be.

Edward Woo: Coming of Age provides an initial base for the episode Conspiracy with Admiral Quinn and Lt. Cmdr Remmick.

The main story is Wesley Crusher's attempt to gain entry into Starfleet Academy. Even though only one of the four candidates will succeed here this time, it will be a great loss to Starfleet if the others do not get in next time.

I liked Mordock, the Benzite, and I knew he would succeed. I wonder if we will get a chance to see how he is doing at the Academy or on a Federation ship in an episode to come.

Lt. Cmdr Remmick is one of those officers not liked but needed to do a job in Starfleet - just like Internal Affairs officers of the police.

To end the episode Picard acknowledges to Wesley that he too failed his first attempt at entry to Starfleet - "and you may not tell anyone," remarks Picard. A failure once in a while will mean your successes have greater meaning.

It is possible to speculate - did the other members of the bridge crew gain entry to Starfleet Academy at their first attempt? I think that Lt Cmdr Data and Cmdr Riker would have made it first time, but I'm not sure about the others.

Ann Peters: This has to be one of the worst TNG episodes. Perhaps impressive guest stars might have managed to lift it out of the mire, but they weren't and they didn't, and the BBC didn't help by showing two Wesley episodes consecutively. TNG is a little too fond of putting two quite different stories into one episode when there is only a dubious link between them. They stopped doing it in the third season and what a difference it made! It's difficult to know which of the two plots in COA is the main one because they're both equally redundant.

But my real difficulty here is Wesley's failure to get into the Academy. Firstly, I can't believe that Starfleet ration's entrants. A world where everyone has what they need would not waste all that potential by turning away perfectly good applicants; they would simply bring in more resources to deal with more students. Secondly, I can't believe that a child prodigy like Superwes would be rejected, in favour of someone showing such obvious signs of panicking under pressure. Was it just a political move to please the Benzites, or do we now have the explanation as to why all the officers stand around like idiots while Wesley saves the ship? Perhaps Starfleet actually *selects* idiots, and if you're smart like Wes, you have no chance of getting in!

SYMBIOSIS Episode No. 22 Prod No. 123. Teleplay by Robert Lewin & Richard Manning & Hans Beimler, Story by Robert Lewin. Synopsis by Sheila Clark. US Satellite Uplink Date 16/4/88. BBC 2 screening 13/2/91.

While investigating a star that is throwing out strong solar flares and showing signs of instability, the Enterprise picks up a distress call from a freighter. When Picard answers, he discovers that the Captain of the freighter, T'Jon, has little idea of how his ship works; there is a malfunction, and even when the Enterprise identifies what it is T'Jon has no idea how to go about correcting it. The technology is there, but his people have forgotten how it works.

It is too late to save the freighter, but the Enterprise tries to beam off the six personnel on board - only to have the cargo beamed over first. The delay means that only four of the six are then saved, but T'Jon, it seems, regards that as unimportant compared to the safety of the cargo.

T'Jon and one of the others are Ornarans. The other two are from the neighbouring world of Brekka, and both pairs immediately begin disputing the ownership of the cargo. T'Jon insists it is his, paid for by trade goods that were unfortunately lost with the freighter; the Brekkans insist that payment was not received, so the cargo canister is still theirs.

They say the canister contains medicine - medicine urgently needed by the Ornarans, who are all suffering from a permanent - and incurable - plague. The medicine, Felcium, controls the symptoms, but the plant it comes from only grows on Brekka. The Brekkans have developed a way of life that depends on goods supplied by the Ornarans to pay for the Felcium.

Crusher discovers that the 'medicine' is in fact an addictive drug; the plague symptoms are caused by drug withdrawal. She wants Picard to prevent the delivery of this shipment and says she can make up a synthetic substitute to ease the Ornarans through the transition. Picard refuses; the Prime Directive, while allowing him to save the crew of the freighter, does not permit him to interfere in a situation that has gone on for two centuries.

The Brekkans decide to give the Ornarans this shipment, and Picard realises that they know the Felcium is a narcotic; that their race has deliberately kept the Ornarans addicted after the initial plague was cured. They admit it, but are quite smug with the realisation that Picard will do nothing.

Picard, however, realises that there is something he can do. He had originally intended to help the Ornarans to repair their last two - faulty - ships; now he refuses to give that help. This will be the last shipment of Felcium. The four are beamed down, the Brekkans officially to negotiate a new price to replace the goods that were lost, and probably wondering how they will ever get home again; and the Ornarans certain that Picard has condemned their race to death.

Edward Woo: Symbiosis brings back memories of ST II and III with Merritt Butrick and Judson Scott.

The story concerns the drug Felcium supplied by the Brekkans to the Ornarans. The moral issue in this story has its parallels in today's drug problem. I enjoyed this episode as it had a role for Dr. Crusher and her moral beliefs to relieve suffering.

Picard's solution to the problem was good. In not telling the Ornarans that Felcium is a narcotic and not helping to repair their ships he will deny the Brekkans vital trade and wealth. The question we must ask is how long will this situation continue? Then after the Ornarans find out the real truth, could a war between the two planets occur because of the sufferings of the Ornarans over many centuries?

Sharon Holmes: What can I say? If I was Deanna Troi, I would be uttering something along the lines of "Captain, I sense 4.06 million minds cringing in unison." Yes, THAT bit. It was a wonderful opportunity to get the drugs message across but URGH! what a way to go about it. For those of you fortunate enough to have missed this episode, I shall explain what I'm going on about. Wesley can't understand why people take drugs, so Tasha explains why. Tasha's explanation must have been taken from a Nancy Reagan anti-drugs speech! It was terrible! You really must view the episode to see why.

Apart from this particular scene (which spoiled the episode), Symbiosis was reasonably entertaining. As in Coming of Age where the loyalty of the crew was demonstrated, here the Prime Directive is the centre of the episode. Picard's solution to his dilemma was quite brilliant, although I feel it could become a source of future controversy.

Joachim from TWOK has been reincarnated as a drug dealer. This could start a trend. Just imagine what might happen if the producers decide to reincarnate all those Security guards from the original series....

Ann Peters: The prime directive was very well explored in this episode. Unlike in Justice, this situation really did not involve the Enterprise and Picard had no business taking sides. As he pointed out to Crusher, Earth history is littered with do-gooders who often create far more problems than they solve: well meant

actions like prohibition, for example, often have quite unforeseen repercussions. Picard took the minimum interference option, even though it wasn't what he *felt* he wanted to do. Similar situations in the original series always had emotions winning over logic and I often felt sorry for Spock at being so outnumbered - not just by Kirk and McCoy, but by the writers as well. Because Picard is much more like Spock than Kirk, the objective viewpoint is now allowed to triumph occasionally. I regard this as progress.

The incompetence of the Ornarar captain was amusing viewed from the safety of the Enterprise bridge, but he was lucky to have survived so long. If you know nothing about cars, it would be pretty stupid to drive across the Sanara, even if you were in the AA. When Picard tells the whole ship that even though things are uncomfortable, 'we are getting a splendid view', I wonder who else but the bridge crew can actually see it; they certainly couldn't in engineering.

The episode is unfortunately marred by Yar's dreadful speech about drug dependence. It needed to be said, of course, but not as a sermon. There is nothing new in a grown-up telling a child not to take drugs and we've all seen it many times before. Now, a cosy scene with Tasha explaining to Data what a terrible problem drug were on her planet, could have been really memorable as well as informative. Androids and aliens are the things to use when highlighting stupid Human behaviour. That's what they always did with Spock and that's what they should be doing now with Data and Worf.

TIMES IN STAR TREK

by Mark Alex Pidd

Having enjoyed most of Star Trek I have made the following notes regarding some times used. These do not use the stardates, as these do not reflect the actual time duration, just used for production (see Richard Arnold's comments on stardates). I would appreciate any other information.

The actual time interval between original ST and ST:TMP is not clear. However, it is implied that two years have passed, this being the time since he was last in space (following a five year mission). The last eighteen months of the Enterprise has been in refit. This leaves a gap of one year where the activities are unknown. It is not clear if Decker has command for these two years, or if his command started with the Enterprise refit.

The time interval between ST:TMP and ST:II (TWOK) is even more confused. I can detect no clues in the versions I have seen. However, events suggest that the time span between ST:II and ST:V is relatively short (months, not years). This time span is important in that the Enterprise is twenty years old in ST:III. Given that the original series mission was five years, followed by the time up to ST:II this leaves the possibility of a ten+ year gap from the commissioning of NCC-1701 to the start of original ST. I cannot find if this gap is more clearly defined in original ST.

ST:TNG is set 78 years after the original series. Dr. McCoy is 45 in the original and 137 in TNG. This leaves a gap of 14 years, all of which cannot be explained by events in the movies.

In ST:TNG the NCC 1701-C has been lost for 22 years. The NCC 1701-D is 4 years into its commission (re: Tasha Yar). This would indicate that Starfleet was without a Starship named Enterprise for 18 years. Given that ST:III implies a Starship's working life expectancy is 20 years it could suggest that NCC 1701-A and B both had their full innings and NCC 1701-C was destroyed some time before 17 years into its mission (the actual time into the mission would be 20 years minus

the time from the end of the original series to the end of ST:IV).

GERMAN TITLES OF TNG EPISODES

by Martin Stahl

The Measure of a Man	To Whom Does Data Belong?
Contagion	The Iconia Probes
The Royale	Hotel Royale
Time Squared	The Future Is Silent
The Icarus Factor	Riker's Father (Originally they intended

to call this episode Riker's Temptation, but fortunately they realized that hide and Q already used this title.

BOOK & VIDEO REVIEWS

LEGACY by Michael Jan Friedman Pocket Books (56), Titan (50) £3.50
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

A routine survey goes wrong when Spock is attacked and poisoned by a huge animate vegetable creature; as he and McCoy beam back to the Enterprise, Kirk and his landing party are trapped underground by a violent - and very localised - earthquake. Before they can be rescued, the Enterprise is called away to come to the aid of a colony planet that is being attacked by a vicious and ruthless pirate.

Ten years previously the Enterprise, then under Captain Pike, had encountered this pirate leader, a being called Dreen, and defeated him. It has taken Dreen those ten years to redeem the shame of defeat; now - as well as needing to prove that he is indeed a successful Acquisitor, he is desperate for revenge - and since Pike is no longer there to be defeated, his target becomes the dying Spock.

I read this at a sitting, but then I find that Friedman has a very readable style. While I have certain doubts about the space-going viability of a race that appears to be wholly dependent on theft to survive, Dreen and his race are well drawn and their motives are kept consistent - and I did end up feeling slightly sorry for Dreen, who was as much a victim of his culture as the people he raided.

I also have slight doubts about the way Kirk and his party escaped from the earthquake - though it made a nice change to have the security detail survive! It was also a nice change to have Kirk come up with the antidote to the poison instead of having McCoy produce a medical miracle. (To say a cure is found gives nothing away - we all know that none of the regulars is going to die in one of the novels.) Mark you, I was at least two chapters ahead of him in guessing what the poison was!

There's a bit of jumpiness in the way the story is told, shifting as it does between Dreen, the Enterprise, Kirk... and a few snippets devoted to Pike (and Vina) on Talos, which I didn't feel were really necessary. All in all, though, a good read. Thank you, Marion.

LEGACY by Michael Jan Friedman Pocket Books (56), Titan (50) £3.50
Reviewed by Helen White

A landing party is conducting a survey of Octavius Four, when Spock is attacked by a giant tentacled 'maggot', and severely injured. The minute that McCoy has beamed back up to the ship with him, Kirk and some of the landing party get caught in an earthquake and disappear. Add to that the fact that a rather unfriendly gentleman named Dreen has attacked a Federation mining colony, and that

Dreen turns out to be an old 'friend' whom Pike defeated when he was captain of the Enterprise, and you have rather a tricky situation to be dealt with.

Hooray! This is the first decent Trek novel, in my opinion, since Ghost-walker, six books ago, although I do not include A Flag Full of Stars as I haven't read it yet; I can't get into it, which doesn't bode well. However, I digress. Legacy is a really good story, with several different bits of plot to be dealt with, and Mr Friedman does a great job. He seems to be rather fond of injuring people, however; for example, poor old Spock spends a lot of his time controlling a variable amount of pain, and as for what Dreen tries to get up to... One of the best things about the story is the bits involving Pike: this is the first time that I've felt him to be an interesting person who was worthy of Spock's loyalty - thank you, Mr Friedman. Characterisation generally was exactly right, I felt, and there were plenty of good 'spare' people (eg in the landing party), who came across as real, rather than cardboard cut-outs. 8/10.

RENEGADE by Gene DeWeese Pocket Books (55), Titan (48) £3.50
Reviewed by Sue Embury.

I was first attracted by the cover design on this - good likenesses of the big three, and a nice pic of the Enterprise under fire from some kind of rocket powered sky-scraper thingy. However, you can't judge a book by its cover. Though perhaps not outstanding among Star Trek novels, it was a good read and I was not disappointed.

The Enterprise is sent to mediate a dispute between the inhabitants of Chrellkan IV and their neighbouring colony on planet III of the same star system. The two populations have previously been the very model of peaceful coexistence, and the colony Vancadia was due to get official independence in only two years time, but suddenly they demand immediate independence, and relations deteriorate to the brink of war.

Kirk's task is to sort all this out (I couldn't help thinking that Jean Luc Picard might have been the better man for the job!) and having heard the Chrellkan version of events he sends Spock and McCoy down to Vancadia to get their side of the story, whereupon they are both promptly killed, or so it would appear. I don't think it is giving away too much if I reveal that they are not in fact dead, but are embarking on an "away team" adventure of their own. Meanwhile, back on the Enterprise, Kirk has to set aside his feelings of loss and try to resolve the Chrellkan conflict.

There is not very much deep relationship portrayal here, but everyone behaves in character, and the story is fast moving and kept my attention throughout. There were a few holes in the rather intricate plot, but I didn't find this detracted from the overall effect. All in all, I found it quite an engrossing book, which came as a surprise, because I didn't find Gene DeWeese's other two Trek novels (Chain of Attack and The Final Nexus) very enjoyable at all - third time lucky perhaps.

I thought there was a strong feel of Classic Trek about this story, and I could imagine it making an excellent episode. In fact, if I have a major criticism, it is that it might have worked better as a screenplay rather than a novel. However, as it's about twenty two years too late for that, I'll accept it in its current form. Quite a good adventure story. 7 out of 10.

I AM NOT SPOCK by Leonard Nimoy Published by Celestial Arts, Nov '97
Reviewed by Jean Sloan

I wonder if I am the only person in fandom who did not read Leonard Nimoy's autobiographical work until 1991? I acquired a copy of the volume in May, and it seemed appropriate to review it for Star Trek's 25th Anniversary. (I got my copy from The Intergalactic Trading Company, who found some copies in a warehouse. It cost \$35. It was advertised in their 1991 catalogue, so they probably still have

some copies.)

As I am sure everyone out there knows, *I Am Not Spock* was published in '975 and was at the time the subject of some controversy. The title, and quotes from the book taken out of context, were deemed to indicate that Nimoy wished to disassociate himself from the role of Spock and that he was tired of being linked with the Vulcan. In reality, the book explores the impact which playing the role had on Leonard Nimoy's life and career; it is also a fascinating insight into the relationship between actor and role, particularly when the role is a long-term commitment.

Leonard Nimoy's relationship with the character Spock is examined in some depth. The thesis goes something like this: Leonard enjoyed playing Spock; got to know him; developed the character, and as the role developed, found his own thinking and approach to life affected by the logical, controlled being he had created.

"...the relationship with the character of Mr. Spock has given me a constant guideline for a dignified approach to life as a human being."

When the series came to an end, the creation, Spock, continued to exist, recognised by passers-by, greeted with the Vulcan salute. Nimoy tells one anecdote about the role of Caligula which he was playing - "We are resolved to be logical" was one of his lines, and he explains that he dreaded coming to the word because it belonged to Spock and the audience tended to laugh. Another anecdote concerns the reception given to Leonard Nimoy's poetry. A common reaction was to describe it as "surprising" that a "cool, rational, pragmatic, logical" person could write so sensitively. So Spock's character was being grafted onto Leonard Nimoy by the public.

The experience of being identified with your creation by the public to the point at which you are not allowed a life or personality as an individual must be an experience that many actors share. Leonard Nimoy does not set out to present the Nimoy/Spock relationship as negative or destructive. The book seems to be a search to come to terms with the power of the relationship, a power which surprised the actor himself.

"Six years after having completed the role... I sense Vulcan speech patterns, Vulcan social attitudes and even Vulcan patterns of logic and emotional suppression in my behaviour."

As the book progresses many other anecdotes demonstrate public reaction to the role, and in the telling of the anecdotes there is always a sense of Nimoy being amazed yet again by this reaction. One of the absolute delights of this book is a series of imaginary dialogues between Spock and Nimoy in which their relationship is explored. Another is Nimoy's analysis of Spock's popularity, and his setting of the character in a literary and dramatic tradition.

Apart from its philosophical side, *I Am Not Spock* is a commentary on the production of *Star Trek*, and on the details of the development of the Spock character. Anecdotes give insights into the day to day problems of putting TV episodes together, and Leonard Nimoy discusses his favourite episodes, viz: *This Side of Paradise*; *City on the Edge of Forever*; *Amok Time*; *Dagger of the Mind*; *The Menagerie*; *Devil in the Dark*; *Enemy Within*. Lastly, but not least, the book covers Leonard Nimoy's career from his decision to become an actor up until the point of writing.

I found *I Am Not Spock* fascinating (sorry) and reading it has left me wishing that Leonard Nimoy would write a sequel bringing his career to the present day. He is a natural raconteur which makes the book entertaining as well as informative.

Spock is my favourite character in the *Trek* universe; it was a delight to gain these insights into his creation.

VIDEO REVIEWS No. 67/68 reviewed by Glona Fry

PLATO'S STEPCHILDREN written by Meyer Dolinsky

Answering a medical distress call, the Three beam down to a strange world where aliens have created a society based on the teachings of Plato. All is not as it seems, however, and the cruelty and depravity of these telekinetic beings is used against our people when McCoy refuses to stay. Kirk and Spock are forced to take part in humiliating activities, which Spock has difficulty in recovering from, but Kirk shrugs off more easily.

The Platonians' dwarf jester, the likeable, much abused Alexander, is befriended by Kirk and supplies the information which leads to a possible solution for beating their oppressors. The Platonians, wanting further entertainment, bring Uhura and Chapel as partners for Kirk and Spock and the four are compelled against their will to 'perform' in front of an audience. Kirk's solution eventually works, saving them from further degradation. Parmen, the leader, is subdued, and the officers leave the planet, taking Alexander with them.

This episode - one of the banned ones - is possibly the most difficult to watch. The demeaning acts are quite horrible, and it is truly amazing that it was allowed to be shown, considering the strict censorship on US TV. Obviously it was too much for the BBC at the time. Also one must admire the courage of the actors in doing such outrageous things, eg the Tweedledum/Tweedledee routine, and Shatner acting the horse, being ridden by Alexander.

Although - amazingly - Kirk and Uhura's kiss was the first interracial one on US TV, I think that the goings-on between Spock and Chapel was more effectively done. One wonders why such big deal was made about a kiss between two Humans, rather than one between a Human and an Alien; but then in the 1960s the situation was quite different, with segregation still in force in the Southern states.

The relationship between Kirk and Alexander is very touching. Alexander, the epitome of all victims, all the oppressed, believed for so long that it was his own fault that he was treated so badly, until Kirk's protective strength and friendship make him realise his own worth. Liam Sullivan and Barbara Babcock were convincingly evil as the aliens who enjoyed degrading others; Michael Dunn as Alexander convincingly sympathetic as their slave.

A thought-provoking episode, still shocking, with heavy sexual undertones. One wonders how much further they would have gone if it had been made today, and if it would have been as effectively sinister.

This is a Kirk episode, showing his strengths when faced with extreme adversity, his compassion for the underdog, and his ability to overcome even the most extreme humiliation.

WINK OF AN EYE written by Arthur Heinemann & Lee Cronin

Responding to a distress call, Kirk and landing party find no evidence of life on the planet Scalos, except a strange insect-like buzzing. A crewman disappears after drinking Scalosian water, and aboard the ship Kirk also disappears after drinking spiked coffee. He has been accelerated to the level of the Scalosians, who live at a much faster speed, and has been chosen by their Queen, Deela, to be her personal... sperm bank... as the males of her planet are sterile. Deela likes Kirk, much to the jealousy of her lover/husband and narrowly escapes cell damage at his hands. Kirk leaves a message for Spock, who eventually discovers what has happened; he and McCoy find an antidote, Spock accelerates himself and he and Kirk save the ship from becoming a giant deep-freeze to preserve the crew for the aliens' use. Deela and her people are returned to Scalos, and Kirk, thankfully, but with a little regret, leaves.

This is a most entertaining episode, using a clever SF theme of people living

at a higher time level than our own; amusing also, because the galaxy's most notorious user of alien females is himself used - willingly, no doubt - as he stalls for time, using his charms on the lovely Deela. How *did* they get away with that scene where he is sitting putting his boots on?

Nice touches of suspense are when Spock puts down the tape message Kirk left for him, and returns to the Bridge - the clever slowing down of the others as Kirk is accelerated. Also interesting is the unspoken communication between Kirk and Spock, when the Vulcan reaches Kirk's time level. Kathie Brown as Deela plays the part with a touch of amused enjoyment which is very effective. Well, who would not find it enjoyable to have the delightful Captain Kirk all to herself, and in her power...

One question. How did Scotty keep so still, all that time he stood at the transporter room door?

ZINE REVIEWS

LOVELY - A LITTLE PROBLEM by Brenda Kelsey. pub. Scotpress 96 pages, £3.85.
Reviewed by Jean Sloan

This is one of the most enjoyable zines I have read for a long time. The story follows on from *The Trouble With Tribbles* and examines the result of Scotty's decision to give the tribbles to the Klingons, a decision which backfires on the Enterprise. What follows is a Spock/Kirk/McCoy relationship story mixed with a liberal dose of 'It's a Knockout', and I am going to give no more plot away.

If I have not already whetted your appetite, I will say that the zine is touching and funny by turns, characterisation is enjoyable, I did not guess what was going to happen, and I read the story at one sitting, i.e. I started it just before midnight after a late film, and carried on reading to the end. This is one for the collection. (P.S. Brenda - what about a sequel????)

I have enjoyed all of Brenda Kelsey's work that I have read. I like the way she portrays the Kirk/Spock/McCoy relationship and her interpretation of the character of Spock. Her story ideas are interesting and she has the ability to keep the reader guessing.

The Truth, Like Dreams (Log Entries 73 - out of print) is a short piece exploring the immediate aftermath of events in the episode *Journey to Babel*. This is a well structured story, strong on tension.
To Sleep, Perchance to Dream (Log E 80 - 6 copies left) explores the impact of events on Delta Vega and suggests an interesting explanation of why the Enterprise was despatched to the Galactic Barrier.
Qual Es Tu?, a story in IDIC 5, poses an interesting question: what happened to Sybok's Katra on his death?
A particular favourite of mine is *For Once I Read or Heard It Sung*, a short poetic piece of writing revealing a weary Spock's thoughts while on shore leave, after the Amoeba incident.

I will be watching for more of Brenda's work.

A GIFT BEYOND PRICE by Gloria Fry. pub. Scotpress 69 pages, £3.00.
Reviewed by Jenny Turner.

This zine involves Kirk taking command of the Enterprise on its first mission. Gary Mitchell, Kirk's friend, is hoping to be First Officer, but Captain Pike has recommended Spock. Mitchell doesn't know about this as he has been ill. He comes on board expecting to be First Officer but Kirk has to have a word with him. Mitchell is furious about it and tries to cause trouble, Kirk tolerates him for a

long while then decides he has had enough, so he puts him in the brig to cool off. Kirk is injured and in sick bay and Gary comes in while Spock is there and causes an emotional scene, which Spock finds distasteful. After a while they have to beat down on a mission, Kirk is injured (what, again!) and Spock helps him. When they get back to the Enterprise he asks Spock to call him Jim when they are off duty but Spock can't bring himself to call him Jim. Whether or not he does eventually... buy the zine and you will find out - the ending is lovely. It's not a very long zine, but worth the money.

SAAVIK by Lynda Allen Ainsworth and Karen Sparks. pub. Beyond Antares
Reviewed by Helen White

This zine is set post-TSFS; Saavik goes to Doctor McCoy for a medical and he discovers that she's had twins, which, it turns out, are being cared for by Carol Marcus. One of the boys is the son of David Marcus, and the other is the result of what Saavik did for the 'new' Spock on the Genesis planet. The story describes how Saavik breaks the news to Kirk and Spock, and how they all come to terms with the situation.

I borrowed this zine from a friend, as I'd heard that it was good (hello Maureen!): I certainly wasn't disappointed. I started reading it at 11.00 one evening, and the next thing I knew it was 12.30 am and I'd finished it! It's a great story, well put together and obviously well thought out. The characterisation is spot-on, as far as I'm concerned, and especially so for Spock and McCoy. There are several funny moments, particularly with Spock and Kirk - the best bit was when Kirk first heard the news, and wanted to zoom off and deal with Saavik immediately... One of the best things is the fact that everything doesn't just happen to come to a neat and tidy end, with everybody happy. The way it ends, however, suggests possibilities for a sequel - please! Definitely 10/10; it's the best story that I've read in ages.

ESSAYS OF AQUARIUS by Marion Van Der Voort Reviewed by Sandy Catchick.

This is a story with a difference, and well worth reading. Although not Star Trek, there are many points of reference, and above all the same spirit of adventure, the closeness of the main characters and for me the same important insight into Human strengths and weaknesses. It is set in a universe where Earth is a member of an Empire and the Navy runs a fleet of twelve ships named after the signs of the Zodiac. Captain Bill Sava is give the Aquarius and his friend Teddy Bhaer is made senior ship's surgeon. Although I have a soft spot for Pooh, Paddington and Rupert, it is not Teddy but the Number One who is the most satisfying character for me. Radin is half Salin, from the Imperial House, a race feared and little known, and half Human. His former Captain described him as follows: "One ear moving is a smile, both a grin; if they curl down he's worried, if they stand out, duck!" I'd not have to duck too far, since Radin is over 6 foot tall and a gentleman to boot!

This book covers the early adventures from a first diplomatic mission that turns out to be anything but diplomatic and takes over three months to solve, to a visit to the Captain's home on Earth. You'll recognise some of the people, from busybody to retired gentleman, but there'll be some surprises including a game of crazy golf and a kidnapping. Later, Radin almost dies of starvation in a Human hospital before Imperial interference and action by Bill and Teddy lead to his rescue. The Admiral comes out on the losing side in the ensuing verbal battle. The book culminates in the ship being visited by Her Royal Highness. You'll need to read the story to find out the significance of the last!

ESSAYS OF AQUARIUS by Marion Van der Voort, published by ScoTpress. UK £5.00; USA \$20.00 air, \$16.00 surface; Europe £6.00; Australia £8.50.

NEW ZINES

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IDIC/ScoTpress

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Accepting submissions for issue 7 on.

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CITY WITHOUT WALLS by Alinda Alain. A sequel to One Among You. Although he has already been defeated, Mitchell's jealousy of Kirk and Spock forces him to keep on

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LOVELY - A LITTLE PROBLEM by Brenda Kelsey - The ship is in quarantine after the tribble episode and to occupy the time is carrying a group of diplomats to their destination. U.K. £3.90.

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CANDLES OF THE NIGHT, a one shot Canadian-based fanzine, is currently looking for submissions of original poetry, short prose and artwork for its singular issue. We are looking for contributions pertaining to: Star Trek (Classic and Next Generation), Beauty and the Beast, Starman, Dark Shadows, our universe and the life it holds. The deadline for submissions is January 31, 1992. For further information regarding submissions, (in Canada) send a SASE or (from elsewhere) send a SAE and one international reply coupon to: Candles of the Night, c/o Tanya Chang, 32 Aleutian Road, Nepean, Ontario K2H 7C8, Canada.

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Submissions (& artwork) are sought for a new American-style K/S zine for publication this December (or sooner!). Classic Trek/TNG but anything considered as long as it's raunchy, interesting or amusing. Please send SAE for info to T-Z-S Ent Inc., 124 Rosslyn St., Aigburth, Liverpool, Merseyside L17 7DP

STAGE STRUCK - an occasional series of interviews with actors. No. 2, Beauty, Royalty and Genius - a rare interview with Derek Jacobi. A 28-page insight into one of Britain's leading actors, containing 11 pages of photographs from his stage and television work, including I, Claudius, Breaking the Code, Hamlet, and his latest stage success, Kean. Send £2.50 plus 40p p&p (Europe 70p, elsewhere £1.80) for each copy required. Foreign orders must be in British currency. Make cheques payable to P.M. Clarke. Order from Ms. Y. Parkin, 44 Wimslow Close, Redesdale Park, Wallsend, Tyne & Wear NE28 8TB, England. Sold in aid of the British Diabetic Association.

221B - Issue 4 of England's leading amateur Sherlock Holmes magazine will be available from mid-September. Price £3.50 (incl p&p). A5 booklet, professionally produced in off-set litho. Colour card cover featuring gold foil block and photographs of Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke. 44 full illustrated pages. Cheques/postal orders should be made payable to: Miss Ann O'Neill. Thank you. Overseas: Please add an extra £1.00 (USA/Canada/Australia), or £0.50 (Europe). All monies in sterling. No personal foreign cheques due to exorbitant bank handling charges. A few copies of issue 3 are left, along with our small b/w postcards. SASE for details (or 2 IRCs). Order from: Miss Ann O'Neill SRN, 38

Stephens Firs, Mortimer, Reading, Berkshire RG7 3UY, England.

AIRWAVES, multi-media zine with topics ranging from A-Team, Galactica, Blake's 7, Star Trek, TNG, Dr. Who, The Equalizer, Robin of Sherwood, Beauty and the Beast, Professionals, Knight Rider, Airwolf, The Bill, Miami Vice etc. Submissions always welcome, no limits to length but no Adult or slash fiction, please! Free copy of zine to all contributors. Zines are computer printed, with photocopied photo covers, 65 plus pages per issue. SAE for flyer giving details of prices, availability etc..

KNIGHT 2000 a Knight Rider based zine. Flyer available. Submissions always welcome.

FLIGHT INTO SLAVERY: Battlestar Galactica & Blake's 7 crossover story. Now available as computer reprint. Photocopied photo cover. 59 pages. Price incl p&p: UK - £2.50, Europe - £3.50, Overseas: £6 Airmail.

THE HOODED MAN: An "Airwaves" Robin of Sherwood special - predominantly Jason Connery. Computer printed, with photocopied photo cover. Issues 1 and 2 now available, (three interlinked stories in each issue). SAE for further details.

Price: £2.50 incl. postage. Overseas: £6.00 incl airmail, Europe: £4.00.

(USA, currency accepted) IMO/bank drafts must be in sterling. Cheques in dollars or Eurocheques cannot be accepted. Order from: Miss B. Callagher, 195 Radipole Lane, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 0TQ.

PEEPING TOM a magazine of menacing and bizarre tales of horror and the macabre. Published 4 times a year. No. 3 is still available, No. 4 due out in August/September 1991. Costs £1.50 per issue, £5.50 for four issues. David Bell, 15 Nottingham Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire LE6 5DJ.

CONVENTIONS/ADVERTS/CLUBS/GROUPS

CONVENTIONS / GET-TOGETHERS

HOLODECK NEW YEAR'S EVE 31st December 1991, Angel Hotel, Northampton. Latest videos in the afternoon, a full buffet in the evening with party games and entertainment from Ronnie Carroll's Joker disco. Ticket price of £35 includes all the above plus your hotel room for the night of the 31st and full English breakfast. Tickets payable by instalments. Extra night's b&b £18. **HOLODECK NEW YEAR'S EVE**, P.O. Box 29, Hitchin, Herts SG4 9TG.

WE THREE ARE KLINGONS! 6-8 March 1992, Angel Hotel, Northampton. A Klingon weekend. Following on from We Are Klingons! and We Are Klingons, Too!, a change of venue brings the representatives of the glorious Empire to Northampton. Qapla! Guest: John Carrigan, stunt person, actor and all round nice guy, who will be presenting a stunt display as he did at the first **WE ARE KLINGONS!** Registration £12, room rates £22 per person per night (all types of room), including VAT and Full English breakfast. Tara Dyson, Dept. of Chemistry, University College, 20 Gordon Street, London WC1H 0AJ.

SOL III '92. The 33rd British Star Trek Convention 1st - 4th May, 1992. Venue: The Grand Hotel, Birmingham. Full Registration: £25.00. (Further details on request). Room rates: £25.00 per person per night, inclusive of VAT and full English breakfast, and irrespective of type of room. Guest speakers (to be announced); theme parties; disco; fancy dress; auctions; competitions; video programmes beginning at noon on Friday. Our charity is the Royal National Institute for the Deaf. For further information and an application form, please write to SOL III '92, c/o Heather Hillsden, 148 Reede Road, Dagenham, Essex RM10 8DX, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

CONTAGION The Scottish Star Trek Convention 18-20 July, 1992 The Central Hotel, Glasgow. Guests: Richard Arnold (STAR TREK Research Consultant), others to be announced. Star Trek episodes: Classic & Next

Generation, films, quizzes/games, dealers room etc plus a Ceilidh and Scottish Folk Night. Registration: Adult (15 years+) - £30.00, Child 10-14 £15, under 10 Free. (Note: Children under 10 years must be accompanied by an adult. No rescue facilities will be available.) Special discount for Silvercon '91 attendees - ask for details. Hotel rates (per person per night): Single £26, Twin/Double £22, Triple £18, Quadruple £16. Price is for Bed & Breakfast and includes VAT and Service. £15 per person non-refundable deposit at time of booking. For further info send SAE to: Contagion, PO Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR.

REC-CON: The 34th British Star Trek Convention. 28th - 31st August, 1992. Guests to be confirmed. To be held at the Piccadilly Hotel, Manchester. Registration until 4/8/1992 £25.00. Room rates £28 per person per night in Twin/Double rooms. £40.00 per person per night in single room. Contact: Tina Hewett, 65 Park Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 1ST.

IFT CONVENTION '92 9th-12th October 1992. Holiday Inn Leicester. Guests to be confirmed. Convention Charity to be chosen. PROGRAMME Video (Original/Next Generation), Art/Model Display, Dealers' Room (Professional/Clubs), Competitions (Art/Fiction/Poetry/Fancy Dress), Disco, Theme Party, A KLINGON HUNT???? Further details send an SASE to: IFT CON '92, Fiona Barrowclough, 129 Westfield Road, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 3HN.

UFP HOLIDAY TREK 92 Larnaca, Cyprus. 6th-9th November, 1992. A Trek con and holiday in Cyprus at much lower cost than with holiday tour operators. £285 for the weekend, or stay a week for £360: cost includes bed and breakfast, flights and con registration. Hotel is the luxurious four star Palm Beach, flights on scheduled CyprusAir. Monthly payment plan available. Send SAE for further details to Kim Farey, 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BS.

WARP ONE: The 35th British Star Trek Convention. 30th April - 3rd May, 1993. At the Middleton Tower Holiday Centre, Morecambe, Lancs. Registration: £25 until 31/12/91, £30 thereafter. Under 16s half price, under 5s free. Day and supporting registrations available. Accommodation: £26.70 PPPN if paying before 18/3/93, £33.30 PPPN after 18/3/93. Under 16s half price, under 2s free. The rate is for full board accommodation. Guests to be announced, parties, disco, videos programme, the usual competitions plus some surprises. In aid of Cancer Research. For more details and a registration form send an SAE to Warp One, 69 Merlin Crescent, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 6JB.

HOLODECK The 36th British Star Trek Convention. 27th - 30th August, 1993. Telford Moat House Hotel. In aid of the Invalid Childrens' Aid Nationwide Charity. Registration: Full £26, Fri/Sat or Sat/Sun £15, Sat/Sun £20, 1 day £10, Supporting £10. Child 10-16 half the above rates, under 10s free. Hotel Rates, per person per night, inclusive of full English Breakfast and VAT: £26 sharing a twin or double, £32 in a single. Send an SAE for further info and registration form to: Holodeck 93, P.O. Box 29, Hitchin, Herts SG4 9TG.

OVERSEAS CONVENTIONS

WINTER TREK: February 22nd - 23rd, 1992. Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, Burlington, Vermont, U.S.A. Registration \$45 (\$50 at door) for all events both days; \$25.00 (\$30 at door) for all events except the Saturday night dinner; \$15 (\$20 at door) for dealers room only. Hotel rates per room; single \$62, double \$72, triple \$82, quad \$92. For information contact Winter Trek, P.O. Box 1176, Watfield, Vermont 05673-1176, U.S.A.

SEA TREK CRUISE: Cruise Trek presents A Tribute to Trek Fans. June 5-8, 1992 on Norwegian Cruise Line's Starship SOUTHWARD. Sail from LA to Catalina & Ensenada, Mexico. Cruise along with 10 or more of the Star Trek and Star Trek The Next Generation cast. Enjoy 3 days and nights of unforgettable Star Trek fun! Price includes stateroom accommodations, all meals, entertainment, and Trek activities, plus special collectors' gifts. Price per person ranges from \$472 to

\$770 plus \$33 port charges and \$27 pre-paid gratuities. Call Cruise Trek Now! (818)597-7570 (USA) or (800)745-7545 (USA).

WIN A FREE CRUISE! Enter the Trek Fan of The Year contest. For a contest application, send a self-addressed envelope (+ 2 IRCs) to: Cruise Trek, 5330 Derry Avenue, Suite F, Agoura Hills, CA 91301, U.S.A. No purchase necessary. Must be 18 to enter. Paramount is no way associated with Cruise Trek 92 which is produced by Cruises Cruises Cruises.

NON STAR TREK EVENTS

ARMADACON 3 Science Fiction & Fantasy Convention. 9th/10th November 1991
Astor Hotel, Elliot Street, The Hoe, Plymouth, Devon.

Guest to include Terry Pratchett, Ed Bishop*, Michael Keating*, Adrian Cole and Brian Lumley. (* subject to work commitments).

Registration: To 30th June £18.00, from 1st July 1991 £20.00.

For more details write to ArmadaCon 3, c/o 4 Gleneagle Avenue, Mannamead, Plymouth, Devon PL3 5HL. Tel: (0752) 267873.

THE ELEVENTH LEONARD NIMOY CONVENTION: (Amended Advert)

November 22nd - 24th, 1991, at the Stakis Victoria Hotel, Nottingham.

REGISTRATION £50. A programme of films spanning the career of Leonard Nimoy and including many rarely, if ever, seen in Britain. SPECIAL GUEST: Leonard Nimoy!

Numbers will be limited. For form and full details, please send SAE to Carol Davies, 77 The Ridings, Ealing, London W5 3DP.

WHO'S SEVEN: Blakes 7/Dr Who Convention to be held on 30 Oct - 1 Nov 1992 at the Telford Moat House Hotel, Shropshire, England. For more information send a SSASE (SAE & IRC for overseas) to Henry Eggleton, "Valhalla", 137 High Street, Plaistow, Broadway, London E13 9HH.

FRIENDSHIP COLUMN

Friendship adverts will be printed in one newsletter.

Anyone willing to write to a bored student! Bored because I can't find anybody to write about my favourite subject, 'Classic Trek'. Please help me before I go completely insane. Write to: Maxine Tarsey, The Hollies, Eccles, Quindenham, Norfolk NR16 2JG.

Hi, I'm 21 years old. I've been a Star Trek fan for years but have just recently started collecting bits and pieces. I like both sets of Star Trek but prefer Kirk and crew. I am an avid William Shatner fan. If you are madly in love with Kirk or just amazed at William Shatner write to me: Allison Blandford, 11 Condel Road, London SW8 4HS.

Hi! I would like to write to other fans who enjoy The Professionals, Star Trek and Starzky & Hutch. Beverly Singer, P.O. Box 178, Palmer Road, Moores Hill, IN 47032, U.S.A.

I would very much like to join forces with anyone who would like to collaborate with me in writing a classic Trek novel or zine, preferably in my area. If you're interested please write to me: Amanda Sinclair, 9 Laurel Manor, Devonshire Road, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5EJ.

Hi! A mad-Trekker here! I'm 22 and I'll reply to anyone mad enough to write. Age, sex and country of origin unimportant. I'm willing to be educated in Classic Trek but I prefer TNG (fans of Wil Wheaton especially welcome!) I also enjoy being owned by two horses(!), reading, all sci-fi, and watching videos. Interested? My address is: Miss Kirstie Jordan, Yew Tree Farm, Astwith, Pilsey, Nr. Chesterfield, Derbyshire S45 8AN.

Severe Datamaniac requires treatment in the form of Data/Brent Spiner penpals! Am a founder member of Dataholics Anonymous... Will answer all letters: Rebekah

Owens, 1 Bilberry Drive, Rubery, Rednal, Birmingham B45 9QY.

Wanted, Pen Pals. I am 33, divorced, with two children. I am a big Next Gen fan. Fav character Data, then Picard and Riker. I would love to hear from anyone, anywhere. Male or female. Karen Davies, 36 Dagnall Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 6SS.

Hi - I'm new to Star Trek fandom and wondered if there are any other fans (or local groups) in Dorset. I'm 27 and like ST (particularly TNG), Blake's Seven, Red Dwarf, Robin of Sherwood and most other TV SF/Fantasy shows. I'd especially like to hear from anyone in my area interested in going to Conventions as I'd love to attend some! Please contact Jacqui Topp, 39 Corporation Road, Westham, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 0LJ.

I have lost contact with Miss Dale Evans. I would be *very happy* to hear from her again. Annette Bannasch, Schutzenwaldweg 14, D 7850 Lorrach, Germany.

SMALL ADS

Please note: All adverts are printed as a service to members and IDIC cannot accept any liability. Adverts will be printed in one newsletter only.

Please remember it is illegal to offer videos for sale, except for official copies - although there is no law against asking. It is also in breach of copyright to advertise photocopies of zines, and unfair to request them, without the permission of the editor. Adverts will therefore be edited if necessary.

FOR SALE: Star Trek Music Video by Mary Van Deusan. 3hr VHS (PAL), U.K. price £5.00 inclusive of tape, p&p. Outside UK please send an SAE + IRC for price. Please make payment by crossed cheque or postal order payable to Carla Salveta and send your order to: Carla Salveta, 52 Victoria Park Drive North, South Jordanhill, Glasgow G14 9NW. (Please note that I will be away on holiday until November 1st.)

FOR SALE: DC & Marvel Star Trek Comics: \$0.85 - \$5.50 each, Star Trek Paperbacks: \$2.50 each. Marvel Comic Grab Bags: \$0.40 per comic for regular mixed bag, \$0.60 per comic for all super-hero grab bag. Shipping: \$3.50 for comic book orders of 50 or less, \$5.00 for comic book orders over 50, \$5.00 for book orders. Ordering Instructions: All payments should be by cashier's (bank) cheque or a postal money order. Personal cheques are acceptable but will delay orders until the cheque clears the bank. Do not send cash. I will not be responsible for any cash lost in the mail. Print or type all orders to prevent any errors in my filling the order. Foreign orders add 20% to the order total. All orders must be in U.S. funds. Send all orders and payments to: John F.C. Taylor Jr., 145 Meadow Street, Milford, Conn. 06460, U.S.A.

FOR SALE: I make custom made, custom fit, high quality costumes. I charge between .75p and £1.00 an hour depending on how long it takes, and the final price of the costume depends very much on the fabric that the client wishes me to use. I can make ST:TNG costumes. Miss S. Halsey, Starbase One, 9 Thornyville Drive, Oreston, Plymouth, Devon PL9 7LF.

FOR SALE: collection of ST zines, books and audio tapes. For list, send SAE to L Baxter, 29 North Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 8JA. I am also keen to do swaps - send a list of what you have with prices.

TO ALL TREKKIES - I am the answer to all your dreams! I create one of a kind and limited special edition Trek art. The shirt that you wanted, the denim jacket you couldn't get, the painting you dream of or the blueprint that you want but that is only in your head. I do all of this and more! So the next time you want something that no-one else will ever have, call or write to me and I will make your dream come true. Mark R. Gaebler, 630 South Dayton, Bldg 16, No 304, Denver, Colorado 80231, USA, phone (303) 343-8929.

FOR SALE: Former Star Trek fan is selling huge collection of zines (both straight and K/S), books, magazines, toys, pictures, and other collectibles. I also have several dozen videos (they are Beta and VHS only). I would like to trade also for Professionals items (your TV show) for ST items. Please send a large (9" x 12" mailing envelope) and postage (IRCs accepted) to: Beverly Singer, P.O. Box 178, Palmer Road, Moores Hill, IN 47032, U.S.A.

FOR SALE: Star Trek headed A4 paper. Various designs, printed on either high quality writing paper or on plain copy quality paper. For samples please send SAE to: J Williamson, 75 Caledonia Road, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, Scotland, KA21 5AN.

FOR SALE: I would like to sell the following items to any other member - 40 novels; 11 Star Trek photonovels with 300 full colour action scenes each; 12 Star Trek novels - television series; 8 TNG novels; 39 videos - series - two episodes on each tape, worth £420 to buy new; 5 videos, Star Trek movies, worth £60. Would sell the whole for £250 or split to sell singly or in lots. David Blount, 30 Hollington Way, Mansfield, Notts NG18 3QW.

FOR SALE: Star Trek videos (all pre-recorded). Contact Ursula Clarke, 10 Bunbury Road, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP32 6HT.

FOR SALE: Original Trek zines and books. Please send SAE for list to: Ingrid Smith, 24 Cliffsea Grove, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1NQ.

FOR SALE: Zines old and new. All one price. Send name and address to Mr. M. Payne, 5 Bassett Road, Coundon, Coventry, CV6 1LN.

WANTED: VHS videos of The Andersonville Trial & Alexander the Great (both with William Shatner), plus episodes of the Adventures of Robin Hood starring Richard Greene. U.S. NTSC tapes are okay. If you can help please contact Janet Quanton, 15 Letter Dail, Cairnbaan, Lochgilpead, Argyll PA31 8SX, Scotland.

WANTED: I'm looking for a copy of a video tape of This Is Your Life with William Shatner. Can anyone help. Annette Bannasch, Schutzenwaldweg 14, D 7850 Lorrach, Germany.

WANTED: would anyone be willing to send me copies of photos taken at Silvercon (especially of Richard Arnold's slide shows)? I will pay for the copies and postage. Please contact Gillian Borland, 19 Maree Drive, Condorrat, Cumbernauld, G67 4LW.

WANTED: Recording of William Shatner on This Is Your Life and any pictures of William Shatner and Captain Kirk (price negotiable). No need for TekWar of TekLords, got them already. Write to: Allison Blandford, 11 Condeil Road, London SW8 4HS.

WANTED: Any third or fourth season TNG episodes on video to borrow, especially The Best of Both Worlds Pts. 1 & 2. Please contact Peter Hughes, Bryn Myfyr, West End, Glan Conwy, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL28 5SY.

WANTED: If anyone is willing to part with any old zines or willing to lend them to someone who will be *very careful* with them and pay the postage both ways, please contact: Lesley Thompson, 47 Hayward Way, Verwood, Dorset BH21 8HS.

WANTED: Can anyone lend me a copy of Yesterday's Enterprise? Michael Johnson, 30 Gosvenor Street, Leek, Staffs ST13 5NA.

WANTED: If possible, has anyone got the 1st and 2nd season Bloopers Gag Reel (on video) for loan or sale? Please could you write to Helen Wimble, 15 Kemp Court, Lansdowne Green Estate, Stockwell, London SW8 2BJ.

WANTED: Could anyone let me borrow Pulse of the Machine by Jean Kluge (as I can't afford to order this and I would like to read it). Please contact Elena Bond, 65

Nutbourne St, London W10 4HW

WANTED: Copy of TNG Officers Manual, TNG Panini Stickers Nos 1, 55, 71, 188, 209, 231, 237. Will pay good cash price, or swap for ST Foto novels n. 2 & 9. Philip Smith, 1 Hatfield Walk, Nornabell Street, Hull, N. Humberside HU8 7SL.

WANTED: K/S zines Icefire, T'hy'la 2 (The Things I Cannot Change) and A New Future/Out Of Bounds; also has anyone got on VHS video tape the episode of Columbo with Leonard Nimoy, the Hooker episode with Leonard Nimoy; also Baffled. I will pay any reasonable price for any of these. Jenny Turner, 46 Chinnbrook Rd, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0LX or ring 021-443-2995, after 6pm please.

STAR TREK FAN AND ACTOR CLUBS UPDATE

We have available information sheets giving details of all the British Star Trek clubs and local groups we know about, plus actor clubs for Leonard Nimoy, DeForest Kelley, George Takei, Walter Koenig, Michelle Nichols, Brent Spiner, Marina Sirtis and Guy Vardaman. If you would like a copy write and ask Janet; enclose at least a 9" x 6" SAE plus an extra loose 17p stamp.

Please enclose a SASE when writing to clubs for information.

DREAMWEAVERS - a new Star Trek and cult TV club based in West Suffolk. Quarterly newsletter and two meetings a month. For more details contact Ursula Clarke, 10 Bunbury Road, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP32 6HT.

OUTPOST ONE - Opening hailing frequencies to all Trekkers who are fans of ORIGINAL Star Trek ONLY! Here is the club you've been waiting for: "OUTPOST ONE".

The "Open Union of Trekkers for the Preservation of ORIGINAL Star Trek", (and its cast and crew), welcomes members who believe in the original idea and form of IDIC, and who wish to keep the enthusiasm and the Dream alive.

Membership costs £8 per year for 6 newsletters and a membership package. The first Newsletter is available NOW! Payment by International Money Order in sterling, or cash in sterling. Please add 10% for exchange-rate bank charges. Please note that this club's language is English! Contact: Karen Hayden & Bettina Rackel, "OUTPOST ONE", Am Tannenbusch 31, 4192 Kalkar, West Germany

STATION GAMMA 1 - BSFR Affiliate Star Trek club covering all aspects of Trek including relevant science. 4 n/l pa. For further information please contact Oriel Cooper, 118 Abbotswood Road, Brockworth, Glos. GL3 4PF

(GEC) GALACTIC ENGINEERS CONCORDANCE The name says it all. If you want to know more about Warp Engine, Power Output, Weapons, Navigation, and more about class of Vessels, then GEC is for you. Federation, Romulan, Klingon, GEC will help. For information contact Jason Hickenbotham, 21 Selkirk Road, Dover, Kent CT16 2BT, GB, or Roy J Firestone CA. (GEC) 11400 SE Abbey Lane, Clackmas, OR 97015, USA.

OPERATION TRIBBLES P.O. Box 543, Mendocino, C.A. 95460, U.S.A. This is a new fan club with the whose policy is to see that people in Resthomes receive a tribble, a teddy bear or some other cuddly toy. The club will also have pen pal lists, ads for items for trade and for sale, stories from members etc. There will be four newsletters a year, membership card and ST information when available. Foreign dues \$15.00. Operation Tribbles, P.O. Box 543, Mendocino, CA 95460, U.S.A.

TRIBBLETALK: America's best kept Star Trek secret! Send 2 IRCs (overseas) or a 9" by 4" SASE (US) to find out more about this exciting bi-monthly 18-22 page n/l. Find a Pen Friend!! Adopt a tribble! Enjoy Trek at its best! Tribbletalk, 20 S. Chestnut St., Oconomowoc, Wisconsin 53066, U.S.A.

THE WILLIAM SHATNER CONNECTION The Official William Shatner Fan Club. Membership entitles you to: The Connection, the clubs NewsZine, published quarterly; An 8x10 inch autographed picture of Bill; a complete updated copy of

Bill's credits with an exclusive copy of his biography; plus an opportunity to make new friends, help other through active participation in Bill's charities and have the opportunity to purchase items from Marcy's private collection of jewellery or T-shirts. Dues U.S. \$17, Canada \$20, Foreign \$22. All funds must be in U.S. dollars, or International Money Order. Send to: The William Shatner Connection, 7059 Atoll Avenue, North Hollywood, CA 91605, U.S.A.

THE JAMES DOOHAN FAN CLUB: No. 1-361, 13410 Preston Road, Dallas, Texas 75240, USA.

GIANTS LOG International Appreciation Society for Land of the Giants. Quarterly fanzine with up-to-date news, interviews and photographs - for further details send a large stamped SAE (or 3 international reply coupons) to Giants Log, 11 Kimbolton Court, Kimbolton Road, Bedford MK40 2PH.

ORION'S BELT SF CLUB: A new club for fans of science fiction/fantasy television, cinema, books etc. Functions on a basis of members corresponding with each other, membership is free. Contact: James Bird, 4 Beresford Road, Chingford, London E4 6ED.

LOCAL GROUP NEWS

Is anyone interested in attending a one-day mini-Con in South Wales? I am thinking of trying to organise something very simple for Summer 1992 in Cardiff or Newport. If you would be interested, please let me know. Jacqueline Y Comben, Post Cottage, Rhossili, Gower, Swansea SA3 1PL.

Are there any Star Trek fans interested in starting a club in Dundee? Please get in touch with Stephen Rothwell, 20 Baxter Park Terrace, Dundee, DD4 6NP for more details.

THE LONDON STAR TREK GROUP: bi-monthly, Saturday, 11.00 am - 7.00 pm. For everyone in or within travelling distance of London. Latest videos, games, discussions. First meeting November. Please send SAE for further information to Kim Farey, 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BS.

LEEDS STARFLEET: SAE to Mike Mullen, 25 Claremont Road, Headingley, Leeds LS6 4EB. Meetings (incl. video programme) are held between 12 and 5pm on the following Sundays at the Headingley Community Centre, North Lane, Leeds:

THE AWAY TEAM: Glasgow Star Trek Local Group. Meetings every 6 weeks approx. at the Central Hotel, Glasgow, 10.00am - 10.00pm. Come along and watch the latest videos - you will also get the chance to chat with other fans and to buy merchandise. Forthcoming dates: Sundays 27th October, 8th December, 1st March, 12th April & 24th May. SAE for info to Catherine Melrose, 127 Medwyn Street, Glasgow G14 9QJ

THE BRIDGE CREW: - formerly The Landing Party. A local group based in the south east of Scotland. Fortnightly meetings at the Ailsa Craig Hotel. The group can be contacted at: Wester Auchinricoch Farm, Banton, Near Kilsyth G65 0QZ. Please enclose an SAE.

NOTTINGHAM STAR TREK GROUP meets on the first Wednesday of every month at Byrons (near Trinity Square/Central Police Station) in the city centre from about 7.30pm onwards. Write or ring Michael Butcher, 501 Beechdale Road, Aspley, Nottingham, tel. no. 0602 296323 for further info and confirmation of meeting dates.

OPEN HOUSE First weekend of every month but please phone first to check (081 985 0426). Zines for sale, tapes to watch, other fans to chat to. Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Hackney E9.

STAR TREK: THE NEW GATHERING (U.S.S. Discovery). Local meetings held in the Community Room St Helens Library monthly. Write for details to Sharon Rowe, 93 Juddfield Street, Haydock, St Helens, Merseyside WA11 0BD.

The deadline for submissions (articles, reviews, ads, etc) for the next newsletter is November 13th. Please send everything to Janet unless otherwise specified.

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The opinions stated in this newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

Send to:-

Janet - Subscriptions/Renewals; anything for the newsletter including ads, articles, letters etc.; used stamps for The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

Sheila - All zine orders.

Sheila or Valerie - Submissions of stories, poetry & artwork for zines; used stamps.

Helen - Submissions of crosswords, quizzes etc.

Note: it is okay to send newsletter items to Sheila or Valerie as long as they receive them at least 10 days prior to the deadline.

Committee Addresses:

Janet Quarton, 15 Letter Dail, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8SX, Scotland

Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee DD3 0PH, Scotland

Valerie Piacentini, 20 Ardrossan Road, Saltcoats, Ayrshire KA21 5EW, Scotland

Helen White, 34 Fletcher Gardens, Binfield, Bracknell, Berks RG12 1FJ

Dues UK £6.50, USA/Middle East Air \$23.00 (£12.25), Australia £13.50, Europe £8.50.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

This is a statutory notice as prescribed by the above Act. In accordance with the conditions governing the maintenance of machine-readable records by non-incorporated members' clubs, IDIC must advise that the names and addresses of every member are held in a computer-readable format in order to more efficiently prepare and despatch newsletters. The information is used for this purpose only, and will not be disclosed to any other party whatsoever without the specific consent of the Data Subject (i.e. the member concerned). You should also be aware that you have a statutory right for your name to be deleted from the computer record and for your newsletters to be addressed manually.

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